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INDIAN TECHIE WAS FIRST HIRE IN MUSK'S SELF-DRIVING QUEST

Ashok Elluswamy, a 2009 graduate from a Chennai college, was the first hire for Tesla's Autopilot team, Elon Musk said

LITTLE-KNOWN ENGINEERING CHIEF IN TESLA

The Tesla CEO talked up the contributions of Elluswamy, the head of the electric carmaker's Autopilot software division, in a recent interview. Elluswamy's beginnings will sound familiar to techies: He did a four-year BE course at College of Engineering, Guindy, prior to working for WABCO. He also studied MS in robotics at Carnegie Mellon University for a year

EIGHT-YEAR VETERAN AT TESLA

- Elluswamy began developing components of Tesla's first-gen self-driving software when he joined the company and then later helped migrate its computer-vision system to Autopilot 2.0
- He heads a team that trains neural networks with huge amounts of real-world driving data to make autonomous cars a reality

7 years
AGO TESLA BEGAN DEVELOPING ITS AUTOPILOT TECHNOLOGY

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

₹8L EWS quota cap to stay, Centre tells SC

Reservation norms stringent as compared to that of OBC's creamy layer, says panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

DAYS before the Supreme Court begins further hearing on a petition by a few NEET-PG candidates challenging the 10% quota for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), the Centre informed the court that it will go with the suggestion of a panel to retain the annual income cap at ₹8 lakh for that category.

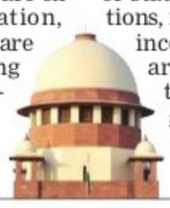
Though the income criterion appears similar for both the EWS and the OBC creamy layer, the norms for the former are much more stringent, the panel's report argued.

One, the EWS criteria relates to the financial year prior to the year of application, while that for the creamy layer applies to the gross annual income for three consecutive years. Second, in the case of the creamy layer, income from salaries, agriculture and traditional artisanal professions are excluded from consideration, but for EWS, all sources are factored in, including farming. "So, despite being the same cut-off number, their composition is different and hence, the two cannot be equated," the report by the three-member panel said. It submitted its recommendations to the Centre on December 31.

The report agreed that there is a link between the EWS and the OBC creamy layer criteria, but said it relates to the history of how the debate on these two issues co-evolved. "Nonetheless, the way in which the income criterion is actually defined is very different in the two contexts. Focusing solely on the ₹8 lakh number, therefore, is misleading," it emphasised.

"This means the EWS income criterion is much tighter, especially in the context of large sections of society with volatile non-salary incomes (shopkeepers, artists, farmers, micro-entrepreneurs etc)," it said.

Besides, having different income limits depending on geographies — rural, urban, metro or states will create complications, it said. "Having different income limits for different areas will be an implementation nightmare both for government authorities and applicants," the report pointed out.



PANDEY, SANYAL PART OF THE COMMITTEE

The panel constituted on November 30 last year had Ajay Bhushan Pandey, former finance secretary, V K Malhotra, member secretary, ICSSR, and Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Adviser to the Centre

A health worker at a vax centre ahead of the drive for teenagers in Bengaluru | SHRIRAMBN

NATIONWIDE	JAN 1	JAN 2
Fresh cases	22,775	27,553
Recoveries	8,949	9,249
Deaths	406	284

KARNATAKA	JAN 1	JAN 2
Fresh cases	1,033	1,187
Recoveries	354	275
Deaths	4	6

Avoid vax mix for children: Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A day before the Covid vaccination drive for adolescents begins across the country, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday advised all states to guard against mix-up of jabs, as Covaxin alone has been approved for those in the 15-17 age group.

"To avoid mixing-up of vaccines during administration, separate Covid vaccination centres, separate session sites, separate queue and separate vaccination team are to be strived for," he said.

With some states intending to hold vaccination camps in schools itself, jabbing ought to be wrapped up pretty soon. Goa, for example, is confident of vaccinating all its 72,000 children with the first dose in the next four days. However, in Kerala, it will be done in general/ district/ taluk/ community health centres till January 10 except on Wednesdays.

Mandaviya said various countries are experiencing three to four times surge in Covid cases as compared to their earlier peaks, warning that a high surge could overwhelm India's medical system, too.

In all, 1,525 cases of Omicron have been detected across 23 states and Union Territories as on Sunday morning. Maharashtra topped the list 460 cases, followed by Delhi at 351, Gujarat 136, Tamil Nadu 117 and Kerala 109.

In Delhi, the case positivity rate went up to 4.59%, but Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal advised people not to panic as most patients are asymptomatic or have very mild symptoms and do not need hospitalisation.

Ashoka: Tougher curbs before Jan 7

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AS Karnataka reported 1,187 Covid cases on Sunday and 1,033 on Saturday after the numbers stayed below the 500-mark for a long time, Revenue Minister R Ashoka said that the state government is likely to bring in tougher rules and restrictions before January 7 to check the spread of Covid among the masses.

With Bengaluru recording a majority of the cases, the "tougher rules" and tighter restrictions are likely to be specially imposed in the state capital. Bengaluru reported 923 of the 1,187 cases on Sunday and 810 of the total 1,033 cases on Saturday.

Ashoka, a member of the government panel on Covid that also includes Higher Education Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan and Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar, told reporters, "Bengaluru is in the Red Zone according to the list put out by the Union government. It is important to sound an alert in the city. We can save people's lives and reduce the number of hospitalisations if we impose stricter restrictions in Bengaluru."

While night curfew is already in force from December 28 to January 7, he said, "We will convene a meeting and announce some tough rules before January 7 when the night curfew will be lifted." The expert committee on health will also brief Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on the measures to be taken. "We will implement the recommendations of the committee in toto because we have seen the sufferings and deaths last time," Ashoka said, referring to the second wave of the pandemic. P3

CITY ROADS

Fill all potholes by March 31, says Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN a move, seemingly aimed at the forthcoming BBMP polls, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday set March 31 as the deadline to fill potholes on the entire 730 km stretch of roads in Bengaluru, which will bring much-needed relief to Bengalureans harassed by the bad condition of roads.

Bommai made it clear that the priority of the BJP government is to keep the IT City tidy. In all, 150 engineers will be hired on contract basis, as the number of wards within the BBMP limits has increased from 198 to 243 after delimitation.

The CM , who is holding the Bengaluru development portfolio, chaired a meeting of his cabinet colleagues, Bengaluru MPs and top officials at his home office Krishna over comprehensive development of the city. After the meeting, Revenue Minister R Ashoka said the chief minister promised an additional grant of Rs 1,500 crore to take up road projects under TenderSURE that can the assault of rain better. P2

2ND TEST

HISTORY BECKONS KOHLI & CO

India have a date with history in the New Year when they take on an out-of-sorts South Africa in the second Test from Monday in pursuit of a first-ever series win in the Rainbow Nation | P13

BULLI BAI

App targeting Muslim women sparks outrage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AMID outrage on Sunday over allegations that a shady app posted pictures of Muslim women "for auction", IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the government is working with police in Delhi and Mumbai in the matter.

The Delhi Police's cyber cell registered an FIR on Sunday, after a journalist alleged that doctored pictures of her and others are being shared on the app. Mumbai's cyber police, too, registered an FIR.

Doctored photos of at least 100 women with lewd comments were shared on the "Bulli Bai" app that was hosted on GitHub. While the app was later removed, some Twitter users were spotted posting screengrabs tagging the women.

CONTINUED ON: P9

Army foils cross-LoC intrusion by Pak national in Keran sector

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

ON a day armies of India and Pakistan exchanged sweets across the troubled Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch to celebrate the New Year, the neighbour tried to push in an armed terrorist in the Keran sector in J&K. The intruder was quickly neutralised.

General Officer Commanding of 28th Division Major General Abhijit Pendharkar told reporters on Sunday that in complete breach of the ceasefire understanding, an intruder was detected moving from an area under the control of the Pakistani Army across the LoC around 3 pm on Saturday.

An ambush was sprung at the opportune moment and the terrorist eliminated, foiling the infiltration bid or BAT action (Pakistan Army's Border Action Team), he added. The slain intruder was identified as Mohd Shabbir Malik, a Pakistani national. An AK-47 rifle and a large quantity of ammunition, including seven grenades, were recovered from his possession.

The route the intruder took was similar to the one adopted on April 4, 2020 during Operation Rangadori Bhaikh, in which five terrorists were killed. Five Indian soldiers were also killed in that gunfight, the officer recalled.

A Pakistani identity card and vaccination certificates were recovered from the possession of Malik. "A photo of the infiltrator in an Army uniform with the name tab of Shabbir was also recovered." It establishes the fact that Pakistan continues to sponsor cross-border militancy, the officer said, adding a hotline contact has been made with the Pakistan Army asking them to take back the body.

Maj Gen Pendharkar said there are intel inputs about more infiltration bids.

TWITTER

Mohd Shabbir Malik

Launchpads in Pakistan loaded with militants

The number of infiltration attempts in 2021 were less than 2020, but launch pads across the LoC continue to be full of militants, General Officer Commanding 15 Corps Lt Gen D P Pandey had recently said

Mammoth heist: Mutt blames forest dept

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tumakuru

IT was a heist of elephantine proportions and the fog of mystery clouds the attempt to kidnap a pachyderm from a Tumakuru mutt on December 31. The elephant, which was driven away in a truck by the accused, was found abandoned at a village in Kunigal taluk and brought back to Sri Karibasavaswamy Mutt at Horapete on Sunday.

It is said that the accused tried to sell the 27-year-old pachyderm, Lakshmi, to a circus company and abandoned it after failing to cut a deal. The culprits claimed to be from the forest department and told the mutt authorities that the elephant would be taken to the Bannerghatta Biological Park for a health checkup. Her mahouts too boarded the truck. "But midway at Dobspet, when they took a break, the accused dropped the mahouts and left with the animal. Forest officials too are involved," alleged Sri Kalyanaswamy, junior pontiff of the Mutt.

Deputy Conservator of Forests Dr Suresh said the PCCF had issued a permit, but to the senior seer, Sri Jagadguru Channabasava Rajendra. P5

The elephant which was kidnapped and later abandoned, at Sri Karibasavaswamy Mutt at Horapete on Sunday | EXPRESS

Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Sri Thaawarchand Gehlot
Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka
Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports
Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, Bangalore, Mandya District Administration, Zilla Panchayath, Mandya and Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Mutt, Srikshethra
Hon'ble Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports, Dr. K. C. Narayana Gowda Felicitating athletes who participated in the Tokyo Olympic and Para Olympic Games along with Hon'ble Governor and Hon'ble Chief Minister.
YUVA JANOTSAVA
2021-22
Venue: Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Mutt, Srikshethra, Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya District.
Date : 04.01.2022, Tuesday, 11.30 a.m.
Inauguration Ceremony
Inauguration
Sri Thaawarchand Gehlot
Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka
Divine Presence
Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji
Pontiff, Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Mutt, Srikshethra
Chief Guests
Dr. K.C. Narayana Gowda
Hon'ble Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports, District-in-Charge Minister, Mandya.
Sri V. Sunil Kumar
Hon'ble Minister for Energy and Kannada & Culture, Govt. of Karnataka
Date : 05.01.2022, Wednesday, 3.00 p.m.
Validectory Ceremony
Launching of Amrutha Samudaya Abhivrudhi Yojane & Amrutha Kreeda Dattu Yojane
Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Karanataka
Divine Presence
Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji
Pontiff, Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Mutt, Srikshethra
Chief Guest
Dr. K.C. Narayana Gowda
Hon'ble Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports, District-in-Charge Minister, Mandya.
Distribution of Prizes
Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan
Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, IT BT and Science & Technology, Skill Development, Government of Karnataka.
:Presided by:
Sri Suresh Gowda
Hon'ble MLA, Nagamangala Assembly Constituency
Dr. H.N. Gopalakrishna, IAS
Commissioner, Dept. of Youth Empowerment & Sports
Smt. S. Ashwathi IAS
Deputy Commissioner Mandya District
Dr. Shalini Rajanish IAS
Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt. Dept. of Youth Empowerment & Sports
Please Come and take part in the State Level Youth Festival...
As is enshrined in our Constitution, "to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture" - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday : 03/01/2022 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Dakshinayna
Ritu: Himantha • Masa: Margashira • Paksha: Sukla • Tithi: Prathami 10.12 pm
Nakshatra: Purvashada 3.08 pm • Moon in Makara Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 16°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST
Increasing cloudiness

Sunrise 6.42 am
Sunset 6.05 pm
Moonrise 7.10 am
Moonset 6.48 pm

The trumpet area of NICE road stalling the Nagasandra-Madavara line | EXPRESS

NICE delays Green Line extension near Nagasandra

Blocks road access to BMRCL to reach construction spot, says rental not paid

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

BENGALURU Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) is facing a major challenge in carrying out construction work on a portion of its Green Line extension between Nagasandra and Madavara. The 3.05-km elevated line is planned to be the first project to be inaugurated in 2022.

Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Ltd (NICE) is denying permission for road usage to reach its construction spot, despite BMRCL willing to pay a monthly rental of Rs 5.75 lakh, say sources.

A senior BMRCL official said work on 630 metres of the line had been held up for some months due to this issue.

BMRCL needs to access up to 3,839 sqm of NICE land to reach the segment. "NICE had demanded rental charges of Rs 5.75 lakh per month during the execution period, as per its letter dated August 4, 2021. BMRCL accepted the condition and communicated its acceptance on August 24, 2021. Despite that, NICE is not permitting us to enter through their land, resulting in delay in execution of work," he said. The requirement covers seven spans in the trumpet-turn-area of NICE Road.

BMRCL had acquired an 11-metre wide strip of land to place the viaduct between Chikkabidarakallu and Madavara, and a parcel of 11,038 sqm of land for construction of BIEC station. "Due process had been followed. Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board is in the process of depositing the money in the High Court, due to a dispute between NICE and Public Works Department over the issue," the official explained.

> BMRCL had acquired our land for the project but we are yet to be paid any compensation for it. We provided the land because former CM B S Yediyurappa asked us to do so
> Ashok Kheny, Managing Director, NICE

Ashok Kheny, Managing Director, NICE, said, "BMRCL had acquired our land for the project but we are yet to be paid any compensation for it. We provided the land because former CM B S Yediyurappa asked us to do so. BMRCL had even given an undertaking in court that we would be paid for it. Even after 2.5 years we have not been paid anything."

Kheny added that the way forward to solve the impasse was for BMRCL to hold a meeting with NICE and sort out the issues.

BDA auction for corner sites gets good response

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has garnered Rs 133 crore in excess of what it anticipated for the 296 corner sites which went under the hammer. Buyers placed bids worth a total of Rs 348 crore, in place of the Rs 215 crore the BDA had expected during the e-auction.

Sites at M Visvesvariah Layout gave the best returns for the authority, with one site sold at 300 per cent the base price fixed. Sites in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout and Arkavathy Layout were also up for bids. Owing to a range of reasons, however, 76 of the 372 properties, were not allotted to anyone.

A senior BDA official said that a site for 47.7 sq metres at Annapurneshwari Nagar (8th Block) of Visvesvaraiah Layout had the best bid, going for Rs 1,00,69,750. "We had fixed it for Rs 31 lakh, but got over a crore for it. So, it has fetched us triple the income," he said.

The costliest site was also in the same layout, and it fetched the BDA Rs 4.48 crore, he informed. It was a huge site running to 474 sq metres. Corner sites are coveted BDA properties due to their access and ventilation, and frequently bring in good income for the BDA. "The process of returning initial deposit money to unsuccessful bidders is in progress," said an official release.

The sites at NPKL were sold for Rs 6,608 per sq foot, while they went for Rs 14,368 per sq feet at Arkavathy Layout. The authority will sell 500 corner sites and 500 intermediate sites (regular ones) in May this year.

Representative picture of a corner site at a BDA layout in Bengaluru

NO STREET SENSE

Months after former CM BS Yediyurappa inaugurated a revamped Commercial Street early last year, the shopping hub is getting another makeover, thanks to the shoddy work executed earlier. Here, workers are engaged in white-topping the popular stretch | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

All streetlights to have LED bulbs by Jan 31

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

HE said that in a week, a new policy under transferable development rights (TDR) would come into effect that will allow granting of additional built-up area to a landowner in return for the portion of a plot taken for a public project. "The Amrit Nagarotthana scheme too will be implemented after a decision by the cabinet," he added.

All the streetlights will be replaced by LED bulbs by January 31, while 7,000 CCTV cameras will be installed by utilising the 'Nirbhaya Fund', he explained. Bommai also discussed encroachments of rajakaluves and government lands, and traffic issues plaguing the IT capital.

Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, ministers V Somanna, K Gopalaiah, ST Somashekar, Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, Byrathi Basavaraj, Chief Secretary P Ravikumar, CM's Principal Secretary Manjunath Prasad, BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta, Administrative Officer Rakesh Singh, Development Commissioner Vandita Sharma and Additional Secretary for Finance INS Prasad were present. Lok Sabha members from Bengaluru participated through video-conferencing.

Land owners suffer as BMRDA guideline blocks their sites

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

An outdated Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) guideline has led to many plot owners suffering all over Bengaluru even after it was reversed. With developers absconding, these property owners are stuck with plots that they are unable to sell or build houses on thanks to these guidelines.

Several layouts, planned nearly 20 years ago, were subject to the now-defunct BMRDA guideline that 40 per cent of plots within a layout cannot be sold unless developers finish various infrastructure projects. But developers allegedly sold plots by obtaining khatas from local development authorities. After e-khata was introduced, plot owners found that they are unable to sell or even build on their plots as properties are still considered unreleased as developers are yet to complete infrastructure projects. "We had hoped to build houses or sell plots, but we are unable to, though many of us are nearing retirement age and are in desperate need of money," said Badarish Prasad, an executive committee member of the MyCiti Site Owner's Association.

Aishwarya County in Nelamangala has around 240 plots that are not released since 2004, with site owners still paying tax on the plots as developers are yet to construct a sewage treatment plant. "The developers are virtually out of the picture after getting into trouble over other layouts," said Anantaswamy Melkote, a former member of the Aishwarya County Plot Owners' Welfare Association.

Another layout, MyCiti, by the same developers has also been abandoned since 2008. "Apart from water and sanitary pipes, and electricity poles, nothing else has been constructed. It has affected not only owners of unreleased sites, but everyone since no one is able to build houses or sell sites," said Prasad.

Site owners have come together and submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister's Office, appealing that a betterment charge be levied on them and release the plots. With this, the government too can earn revenues, they stated. "We've tried setting up our own STPs and are willing to spend money to make sure it's not a dead investment. However, BMRDA refuses to acknowledge it," said Shankar Raj, a plot owner.

KG Layout group writes to PM, seeks infra

BENGALURU: The Nadaprabhu Progressive Front on Sunday penned a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking his intervention as well as compensation over lack of infrastructure development in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, formed by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). The letter, highlighting their grievances, said that sites allotted in two phases -- in December 2016 and March 2018 -- still lacked basic amenities. "The sites are in a very bad condition and not fit for construction," it said. Written by Front conveners Dr Padma Prasad and Sham Jujare on behalf of 430 allottees, the letter pointed out that the price of the sites was fixed between Rs 12 lakh and Rs 86 lakh, based on the dimensions. "The allottees are paying interest on this huge loan, running into lakhs of rupees. The layout is under the ambit of Real Estate Regulatory Authority-Karnataka (RERA-K) and our organisation has repeatedly appealed to BDA and to the Karnataka government to complete basic infrastructure so that homes could be built," they said. A top BDA official said the agency had informed RERA-K during a recent hearing that the infrastructure will be in place by December this year.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

03rd January: This is one of my favourite times of year. I'm not sure why, but it may have something to do with my birth-chart. We all have months we prefer, and it often comes down to when, exactly, we were born. In some strange way, the time that we come into the world plays a huge role in shaping our likes and dislikes.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The Moon's current position reveals that just as one chapter comes to a close another is about to begin. Anticipate some surprises over the coming few days, and don't expect everything to work out as planned. Remember that even apparently unimportant events can have massive results.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
For the time being it may be better not to make too much of a song and dance about questions and issues which have been niggling you for some time. Be a wise Taurean and recognise that other people must be allowed to go their own way - and that they need your trust.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Today's lunar patterns reflect on the region of your chart responsible for your social life. The only possible prediction is that from now on new and stimulating people will be walking into your life. If you have been considering issuing an inspiring invitation, then your time has come.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Professional affairs and public ambitions are in a complicated state - and that's probably an understatement. My only advice is to insist that everybody sticks to the truth, but not at any price. First of all you need to negotiate a little - and find some common ground.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Astrologically this week could bring a few shocks, but almost certainly pleasant ones. Working conditions and legal questions seem to be the more important issues, and radical solutions may be the best. You could be fighting for a cause, and pursuing a matter of principle.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You should now be in a position to pick and choose. In fact you ought to be covering a lot of new ground before long, and will be off in search of adventure and excitement. Give yourself a few more days before putting such plans into action - and make sure you're properly prepared!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
For a peace-loving Libran you appear to be perilously close to losing your temper and letting fly at people who are still withholding vital information. Partners may be more to blame than you, but what you need to do is establish the real issues - and then make your move.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
If you feel out-of-sorts the cause is probably to be found in the Moon's relationship with the Sun. The time has come for some smooth talking - and tough action. You know that there is no point in agreeing with other people just to keep the peace, but one way or another you need them to see your point of view.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
You should by now have learnt to trust in yourself, so don't listen to those who believe that you could improve on a personal transaction. You may have got the best deal you can right now. That doesn't mean that it's perfect, but at least it's a start.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Life in all its many and various forms is still beset by more complications than you would like. There are way too many undercurrents for you to settle down and be confident that present conditions will last. But, then, change can be to your advantage if it brings the improvements you've been waiting for.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
In spite of the many potential misunderstandings which may mar the next few days, this is a marvellous period for friendship and co-operation. All personal contacts will go with a swing if you take the initiative, so write a letter, pick up the phone and do whatever you have to!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
At last the Piscean head is ruling the heart in matters financial. However, you must always remember that you have your own unique way of conducting your affairs, one which doesn't necessarily correspond to what other people hope or expect. So don't be surprised if they don't approve!

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

DAWG IS GETTING PRETTY SHAGGY.
IT'S TIME TO TAKE HIM TO THE G...R...O...O... M...E...R.
WHEN THEY START SPELLING, I START HIDING.
DAWG! WHERE DID YOU GO?

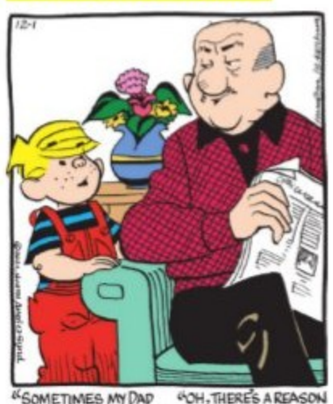
BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

EVERY SO OFTEN A FACEBOOK FRIEND POSTS A QUOTE THAT'S REALLY INSPIRATIONAL
INSPIRATIONAL? HOW?
YOU KNOW, UPLIFTING, LIFE-CHANGING
"A BURGER IN THE HAND IS WORTH TWO ON THE GRILL"?
I KNOW...KINDA GETS YOU RIGHT HERE, DOESN'T IT?

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE



SUDOKU

Hard : Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

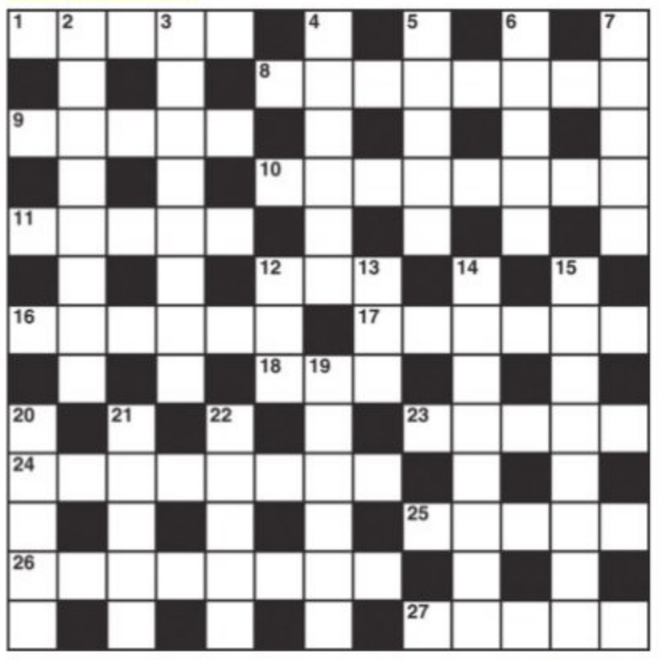
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

			5				1	
1	5	7				9	3	
	2				8		4	
						5	6	
5			6		9			7
	6	1						
	1		4				8	
	3	2				6	7	9
	8				3			

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

9	8	4	3	7	5	6	2	1
2	1	3	8	9	6	7	4	5
5	7	6	4	2	1	8	3	9
4	5	8	2	1	3	9	7	6
7	2	1	5	6	9	4	8	3
3	6	9	7	4	8	1	5	2
6	4	5	9	3	7	2	1	8
1	3	2	6	8	4	5	9	7
8	9	7	1	5	2	3	6	4

CROSS WORD



ACROSS
1 Isn't it still being eaten? (5)
8 Fighting and winning (8)
9 Combine may lose identity (5)
10 Dejected when given a lesser role to play (8)
11 A smart kind of accent (5)
12 She's a dame; not me (3)
16 Is put to a variety of uses in publications (6)
17 Where to find a person of conviction (6)
18 A novel female subject (3)
23 The prospects for new wives (5)
24 Vehicle in the distance is not hostile (8)
25 Leading chess player (5)
26 Neglect nothing on a job (8)
27 Add beauty to a new day we hear (5)

DOWN
2 Train for employment (8)
3 Has a cigarette and looks happier (6,2)
4 Fifty found out in the open (6)
5 Such weather brings a change of air to New York (5)
6 Bed for many a Russian (5)
7 Stone for a garden entrance, perhaps (5)
12 A fool is one who can be taken for a ride (3)
13 Copy paper with ends cut off (3)
14 Is he going in to discover it's all over? (8)
15 Trouble youngsters get into at bath time? (3,5)
19 Like the laugh of a hungry man? (6)
20 Meat company going short through embargo (5)
21 Numbers of Romans about the city (5)
22 Verbal approval (3-2)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS
Across: 1 Sandcastle, 6 Flog, 10 Leave, 11 Assertion, 12 Stampede, 13 Sugar, 15 Fairway, 17 Scandal, 19 Haggard, 21 Pierces, 22 Excel, 24 Artistry, 27 Reconvene, 28 Set on, 29 Heat, 30 By and large.
Down: 1 Salt of the earth, 2 Near thing, 3 Cream, 4 Shapely, 5 Lessees, 7 Lying, 8 Generalist, 9 Arms race, 16 Weak link, 18 Decorator, 20 Drapery, 21 Pattern, 23 Cocoa, 25 Sisal, 26 Once.

JUMBLE

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PRUUS
FAYTF
TUNORA
OJDANI

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This way to the Sculptor's Studio and trails.
I think we're going to head this way first.
11/5
THE SCULPTURE OF THE PRESIDENTS AT RUSHMORE'S 1,278 ACRE PARK IS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

THE "_____"

ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S **Jumbles:**
EXCEL CLONE MISHAP UNSURE
ANSWER: Getting presents was great, but what she loved most was everyone's - PRESENCE

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

03 BENGALURU | MONDAY 03.01.2022 | newindianexpress.com

Covid cases, which were showing a declining trend, are again on the rise in Kalaburagi district. The daily caseload which had not crossed five since a month, increased to nine on Sunday. With this, the number of active cases in Kalaburagi has jumped to 35

TRACKING COVID-19

DURATION OF PANDEMIC
1 YEAR, 299 DAYS

CASES REPORTED
Today: **1,187** | Yesterday: **1,033**

TALLY
Today: **30,09,557**
Yesterday: **30,08,370**

DEATHS	DISCHARGES
Today: **6**	Today: **275**
Yesterday: **5**	Yesterday: **275**

ACTIVE CASES
Today: **10,292**
Yesterday: **9,386**

POSITIVITY RATE	MORTALITY RATE
Today: **5.30%**	Today: **1.27%**
Yesterday: **5.31%**	Yesterday: **1.27%**

RECOVERY RATE
Today: **98.38%**
Yesterday: **98.41%**

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES
LAST 24 HOURS

Bengaluru Urban	**923**
Bengaluru Rural	**6**
Bagalkot	0
Ballari	9
Belagavi	12
Bidar	0
Chamarajanagar	2
Chikkaballapur	0
Chikkamagaluru	4
Chitradurga	4
Dakshina Kannada	63
Davanagere	2
Dharwad	15
Gadag	0
Hassan	6
Haveri	0
Kalaburagi	9
Kodagu	12
Kolar	4
Koppal	0
Mandya	10
Mysuru	20
Raichur	0
Ramanagara	0
Shivamogga	2
Tumakuru	12
Udupi	54
Uttara Kannada	8
Vijayapura	3
Yadgir	0

Around 15K primary contacts of Covid patients traced

Bengaluru has the highest number of active cases, contact tracing to become more aggressive in coming days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BETWEEN December 25 and 31, the state identified 14,948 primary contacts for 3,983 active Covid-19 patients, as per the state Covid-19 War Room data.

Some districts are able to trace more primary contacts (PCs) per patient, a crucial process that helps test and isolate infected individuals, more so in the light of the Omicron variant spreading. These districts include Bengaluru Rural (10.52 PCs per patient), Chamarajanagar (12.83 PCs), Dharwad (15.43), Shivamogga (10.23) and Yadgir (11).

However, other districts, especially Bengaluru Urban, are tracing a fewer number of PCs per patient. In the capital, there are only 3.25 primary contacts per patient, during these six days. This is despite Bengaluru having the highest number of active cases (2,959) in this time, and the most number of active staff (13,417) deployed for contact tracing, in Karnataka.

However, Thrilok Chandra, BBMP Special Commissioner (Health), said the figures are not correct.

"Aside from RR Nagar and West zones, the remaining zones are tracing 8 to 9 contacts per Covid-19 patient. Even in these two zones, we are increasing the contacts from today. We have the required number of people to carry out contact tracing," Thrilok added. Even lower than Bengaluru's figures are Belagavi with 2.94, Ballari with 1.65, Chikkamagaluru with 1.47, Hassan with 1.9, Kodagu with 1.27, Mandya with 0.02 and Mysuru with 2.69 PCs per patient. In these six days, 10,915 secondary contacts per patient have been identified in the state. There have also been 2,615 Covid-19 patients with nil contacts, 2,131 of whom are from Bengaluru alone.

Recently, the Karnataka government ordered that to prevent the third Covid-19 wave, contacts must be identified within 24 hours. Primary contacts must quarantine at home for seven days and are best tested on the first and eighth day.

Schools, colleges gear up to vax teens, drive begins today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru:

A LITTLE less than a year after the Covid-19 vaccine was launched for adults (January 16, 2021), the paediatric Covid-19 vaccine drive is set to take off on Monday. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will inaugurate the drive at 9.30am at BBMP Higher Primary and Pre-University College, Bairaveshwara Nagar, Moodalapalya.

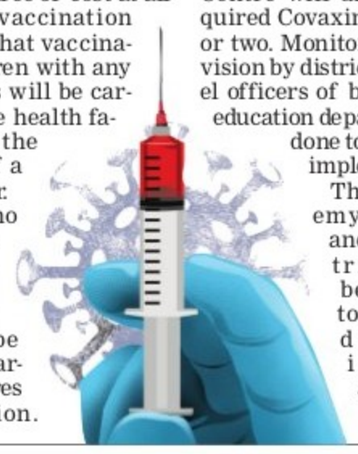
Karnataka intends to reach an estimated 31,75,000 children between the ages of 15 and 18 years (those born in or before 2007). The target for the launch day is 6,38,891 in 4,160 session sites. Schools and colleges will be the vaccination centres.

"There are around 6,000 schools in Bengaluru and on Monday, we will inaugurate the Covid-19 vaccine drive for children in 280 schools. The target for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike region is around 40,000 kids. Supporting infrastructure will be provided by the schools," said BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta.

All districts have planned a launch by district-in-charge ministers, and taluk launch by MLAs.

With an existing stock of 16lakh doses of Covaxin, all districts have geared up with micro plans, logistics, staff etc.

A press note by the health department said vaccination will be conducted free of cost at all government vaccination centres, and that vaccination for children with any comorbidities will be carried out in the health facility under the supervision of a medical officer.



"Children who miss their vaccination on session days at schools or colleges will be directed to nearby health centres for vaccination. Children can download their vaccination certificates from the Co-WIN portal. Schools conducting online classes can fix a day for vaccination and children have to be called on that day to avail the dose," the press note said.

School dropouts will be mobilised to government hospitals with the support of the labour department, RDPR and urban development department. The Centre will dispatch the required Covaxin doses in a day or two. Monitoring and supervision by district and taluk-level officers of both health and education departments will be done to ensure quality implementation.

The Indian Academy of Pediatrics and private pediatricians have been requested to support the drive and in allaying anxiety and apprehension.

PREPARING IN ADVANCE

KEEP OXYGEN PLANTS READY, CM TELLS HOSPITALS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Belagavi

THE Covid-19 and 'Omicron' variant cases have spiked in the country in the last week, specially in neighboring Maharashtra state and its capital Mumbai. People living in the border areas of Karnataka and Maharashtra have business links. Therefore, officials have been told to keep a strict vigil at Belagavi, Vijaypura and other districts bordering Maharashtra state, said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Speaking to reporters here at Sambra airport in Belagavi, Bommai said "People traveling to the State should have a double vaccination certificate and are insisting for negative RT-PCR test certificate. Some travelers may face inconvenience. But these steps are unavoidable in view of the health of the people of the state and specially Belagavi."

He said: "We have to be prepared to face any possible situation besides prevention. There was a shortage of oxygen during the first and second wave of the pandemic in the state. Therefore, I have discussed with the medical oxygen manufacturing companies and ensured proper supply. The officials at all the district and taluk hospitals have been told to keep ready oxygen plants for use. More than 4,000 ICU beds would be kept ready in the state, and necessary medicines would be made available." In order to bring youngsters aged between 15 to 18 years under safety umbrella, vaccination drive for them will begin from January 3 across the state.

At 10,292, active cases rise in state

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

REVENUE Minister R Ashoka stressed that the government will ensure there are no loopholes in the supply of oxygen and availability of beds or medicines. All indicators are pointing to a build-up of a third wave across the country and the spike in infections in Karnataka is being looked at seriously, he said.

Meanwhile, Bommai said that officials in Belagavi, Vijaypura and other districts bordering Maharashtra have been told to keep a strict vigil.

Karnataka saw Covid positive cases per day rising from 566 on December 29 to 707 the next day. It rose to 832 cases on the last day of 2021, 1,033 on January 1, and then to 1,187 on Sunday.

The sudden surge in cases has seen the state's recovery rate drop to 98.38 per cent and that of Bengaluru to 98.01 per cent. State's active cases rose to 9,386 on Saturday and then to 10,292 on Sunday. In Bengaluru, the number of cases rose to 8,671 on Sunday from the previous day's 7,876.

XPRESS FOCUS

2021 WRAPPED YET ANOTHER BEGINNING WINKS FROM THE HORIZON OF HOPES

AWARDS

KISS & KIIT's Art of Giving philanthropic initiative by Founder, Dr. Achyuta Samanta won second position at the prestigious MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship, USA in recognition of its countless humanitarian services rendered in past decades

It all started with a humble note. A simple yet noble commitment towards the society to educate those who need it most and hone the others who were in the fences. KIIT and KISS, the twin sprang from the vision of its Founder, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, soon became a path-finder for millions.

Traveling through the past years, the year on the retreat, 2021, became a touch-stone negotiating the undulations like the pandemic which still remains active with the deadly remains like new variants.

Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) are dynamic educational institutions that have unparalleled yet challenging engagement with the society and commitment for social service.

The year 2021 began with the hope of adjusting to a new normal, but very soon, India braved a big second wave, a devastating one. In such uncertain circumstances, our work went on in full swing - be it academics, social work, innovation in governance, placements and so on. Here are few highlights from 2021:

PARTNERSHIPS

Centre for Japanese Language and Centre of Excellence, Internship and Mitsubishi CSR Programme for Sports was inaugurated at KIIT and KISS on 14th Oct 2021 by H.E. Mr. Satoshi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to India

Foundation stone of S N Mohanty KISS Residential Tribal School at Keonjhar was laid in July 2021. This satellite center will strengthen access to quality education for the indigenous children of Keonjhar district and will be operational from the next academic year

KISS launched Project Samarthya in collaboration with UNFPA and SSEPD 2 Odisha - a life skills education programme for adolescents with disabilities in Special Schools of Odisha

Being one of the signatory members of the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities, KIIT took part in its Tailloires Network Leaders Conference (TNLC2021)

In collaboration with National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi KIIT and KISS hosted Kala Kumbh and created a 350m long painting on freedom struggle to be unveiled by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi

KISS signed MoUs with UNESCO - MGIEP Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development for deploying Self-directed Emotional Learning for Empathy and Kindness (SEEK) Course and with UNDP on research and exchange collaboration

LEADERSHIP

Renowned physician Dr. CBK Mohanty, former Director of Medical Education and Training has joined as Pro-Vice-Chancellor of KIMS .

Professor Sasmita Rani Samanta has been appointed as the first woman Vice-Chancellor of KIIT Deemed to be University.

Mr. Satya S. Tripathi, a former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), has taken over as the Chancellor of KISS Deemed to be University. Prof. Deepak Kumar Behera, an internationally acclaimed anthropologist, has taken charge as the Vice-Chancellor. Prof. Pitabasa Sahoo, has joined as the Pro-Vice Chancellor on deputation. IPS officer Dr Kanhu Charan Mahali of Tamil Nadu cadre, has joined as the Director-General of KISS Deemed to be University after his retirement.

Rankings & Recognition

KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar has been ranked No. 1 among self-financing institutions of the country in the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA), 2021 second time in a row.

KIIT Deemed to be University was ranked 251-300 in the Emerging Economies University rankings by Times Higher Education (THE)

KIIT Deemed to be University has been ranked 30th in the Overall Category among Indian universities by the Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2021. It has achieved 15th Rank in the General Engineering (overall category) in the country

KIIT Deemed to be University has jumped up 200 positions globally to be placed in the cohort of 801 – 1000 in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022

KIIT Deemed to be University becomes India's first QS 5 Stars Rated University by being awarded 5 Stars assessing from all the categories of QS criteria

KIIT Deemed to be University was ranked 201-300 in the Impact Rankings - 2021 by Times Higher Education and 86th in 'Reduced Inequalities' globally

KIIT Deemed to be University was ranked 21 among Indian Universities by National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Government of India - 2021

KIIT Deemed to be University was acknowledged as the Leadership & Management Team of the Year in the Times Higher Education Awards Asia, for its zeal to respond to the unknown & involvement in serving society (expanding free Covid hospitals, distributing masks & sanitiser & community education)

SPORTS

KISS became the first school in India to integrate Chess in academic curriculum at school level as a non-credit course in collaboration with International Chess Federation (FIDE) and Chess Federation of India

KISS Partnered with FIFA for the primordial initiative in India, FIFA Football for Schools - The first of its kind in the world

KIIT and KISS sent a continent of three sportspersons in different sports to Tokyo Olympics 2020

KIIT was selected as one of two the Nodal Centers in India for the selection of Indian University teams for participation at World University Games 2022

KIIT hosted the 69th Senior National Volleyball Championship 2020-21 organized by Odisha Volleyball Association (OVA) under the patronage of the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI)

KIIT University Football (women) team won Silver Medal in the East Zone Inter University Football Championship – 2021 & qualified for All India Inter University Football (Women) Championship – 2021. The tournament was held at KIIT University from 13th to 15th December, 2021 and hosted by KISS University

Odisha Rugby Boys Team won Gold Medal & Girls Team won Bronze Medal in "Junior National Rugby Championship-2021"held at KIIT University from 10th to 12th December, 2021. Out of 12 players 6 Boys players are from KISS & in Girls Section out of 12 players 7 players are from KISS

The Bridge, a media platform for Olympic Sports content of India has ranked KIIT & KISS at fourth position among the top 10 Athletics Academics in India. KIIT & KISS are the only academic institutions on this list of professional sports academies

Thousands of delegates from myriad walks of life visit KIIT & KISS to participate in various academic, cultural, and sport meets during the winters every year. This year, over 20,000 sportspersons, coaches, managers, and officials visited KIIT & KISS to participate in sports events only from November to December

PLACEMENT 2021

250 plus companies till date (50 plus NEW companies added)

4200 plus offers (3000 plus single offers)

Top **1500** students placed in "Dream Companies" with Average CTC of 8.10 LPA

35 Companies offered CTC of 10.00 LPA and above

130 plus Companies offered CTC of 5.00 LPA or more

Highest CTC of **40.00** LPA by YugaByte Software (P) Ltd

Average CTC of **6.05** LPA approximately (30% Higher than previous year)

2200 students offered summer internship via "Capstone Project" route

1500 plus paid internships (One Year & 6-Months Program)

650 plus PPOs till date by HighRadius @ 8.00 LPA

Cognizant being top recruiter offered **717** jobs followed by HighRadius which offered **650+** PPOs

BREAKING RECORD OF PREVIOUS YEARS - MILESTONES

Keeping up with our past trend, KIIT is on its way to achieve miracle placement for the 2021 graduating batch due to the dedicated efforts of our training and placement department.

KIMS Cardiologist brought new life into a 3 Days old baby through a difficult heart surgery

School of Architecture & Planning, KIIT Deemed to be University has been ranked 4th nationally by Global Human Resource Development Centre (GHRDC), New Delhi

The Indian Institute of Law was set up for the first time in India in the collaboration with Bar Council of India and supported by KIIT.

Doctors of KIMS made a landmark achievement by successfully conducting a kidney transplant for the first time on 19th September 2021. A new life for a 23-year old patient suffering from End Stage Renal Disease underwent the transplant

ONGOING WORK DURING THE PANDEMIC

KIIT and KISS has adopted more than 100 orphans by providing comprehensive care - financial assistance, assurance of education and job for a family member

KISS Foundation supported by KIIT University has provided free of cost admission to over 50 children whose parents succumbed to pandemic

KISS is sending monthly groceries, stationery and essentials to the 30,000 students of KISS who are at home from the beginning of the lockdown

KIIT and KISS has provided financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakhs to the families of staff who died due to Covid besides giving job to a family member and sponsoring education of the deceased's' ward

PERSONAL FRONT

Dr. Achyuta Samanta released his first book, biography on his mother, "My Mother My Hero" launched by Shri Venkiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India and Prof. Ganeshi Lal, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha

KIIT and KISS Founder Dr. Achyuta Samanta was awarded "Sandipani Maharshi Samman 2020" by Sandipani Vidya Niketan, Gujarat by Bhaishri Ramesh Bhai Oza

KIIT and KISS Founder was awarded 3 Honorary Doctorates this year, taking his count of Honorary Doctorates to 47

Dr. Achyuta Samanta, President, Volleyball Federation of India has been nominated to the (Central Asian Volleyball Association) CAVA as Member of Board of Administrations (BOA)

Summing up, we don't want to bask in the glory of the past, but we constantly make endeavor to move to better ourselves. Excellence is another milestone we have been always racing at and that is an endless pursuit the KIIT and KISS live with waking up to new mornings.

CM Basavaraj Bommai has announced plans to set up a memorial for veteran journalist Patil Puttappa at his birthplace, Halageri, in Haveri district. He added that the government will also come out with handbooks on the history of Dharwad, authorised by Vidyavardhaka Sangha

STRAWS IN THE WIND

KMF caught in a Catch-22 bind

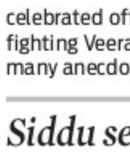
A picture speaks a thousand words, so goes the saying. But in the curious case of Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), a picture left officials speechless -- even before the KMF management could take a decision on whether to roll out milk sachets with a photograph of late actor Puneeth Rajkumar, a picture of a Nandini milk packet with the actor's photo went viral. As news spread, citizens and fans of the deceased actor started appreciating the efforts of KMF. Many took to social media to shower appreciation for this tribute to their 'Appu', who was also KMF brand ambassador. The officials, caught in a Catch-22 situation, tried to brush the issue aside, saying a proposal had been drawn up and sent to them, which had gone viral. "So, far no decision has been taken and the matter is yet to be discussed with the management. As much as we also like Puneeth and respect him, a formal decision needs to be taken. We don't know who circulated it," the officials said. Another official said that a fan of the actor had morphed the image of Puneeth on to that of Verghese Kurien, the legendary Father of the White Revolution, and circulated it on social media. "This is a very sensitive issue," the official added.

Land as security, devadasis thank ex-CS

Former chief secretary Rathna Prabha, who served as Raichur deputy commissioner during her early years as an IAS officer, was remembered 30 years later by a group of devadasis. The women, whose old age is normally miserable because of a lack of income, were allocated plots of agricultural land and houses by the then DC. The women, now in their sixties and seventies, affectionately remembered "Rathna Prabha Madam". Whether she is remembered for her stint as chief secretary or not, she is fondly remembered by these women. Rathna Prabha told TNIE that the women had connected with her on a Zoom call and thanked her for the land after so many years.

Remembering an officer and gentleman

When four no-nonsense police officers -- M K Ganapathy, B K Shivaram, N Nagaraj, B B Ashok Kumar, legends in their own lifetimes -- decide to celebrate the memory of former police commissioner **Padmakar Ganpat Halarnkar**, there must be something very special about him. Halarnkar served as Bengaluru commissioner for four years about 35 years ago, and was a much-admired officer. Former DGP and Bangalore Commissioner Ajai Kumar Singh, celebrated officer Gopal B Hosur who took a bullet in his neck fighting Veerappan, and others who joined in the event narrated many anecdotes of Halarnkar, who passed away last year, aged 88.



Siddu sets sights on Old Mysuru turf

It's never too early for former chief minister Siddaramaiah, who seems to be getting ready for his second innings, and is starting out on his stomping ground, Old Mysuru. On Sunday, on his way to the 'jinxed' Chamarajanagar, he got a rousing welcome at Kollegal. The leader, who is yearning to make a comeback after his 2018 assembly poll loss from Chamundeshwari, was overwhelmed. But former minister H C Mahadevappa, who was by his side during the 2013 assembly polls, was missing in action. Replacing him was KPCC working president R Dhruvanarayana. As Siddu's bete noire in the region is Chamarajanagar LS member V Srinivas Prasad of the BJP, Dhruvanarayana fits the caste bill perfectly.

SC/ST schools to be named after Ambedkar

Move follows Social Welfare Commissioner's letter to State Government, which consented to the request

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FOLLOWING a recent government order, a number of schools operating under the Department of Social Welfare are slated to be named in the honour of the father of the Indian Constitution, Dr B R Ambedkar.

The residential schools, which number about 68, host students of Classes 1 to 5, who come from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe backgrounds.

The Constitution provides certain special safeguards for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of society, so that they could take their rightful place in the community. Hence, naming the schools after Ambedkar is an ideal move, observe constitutional experts.

The decision is a result of a letter written to the Karnataka Government by Social Welfare Commissioner Dr Ravikumar Surpur on October 25.

The letter had requested the government to allow the naming of the residential schools under the department to 'Bharat Ratna Dr B R Ambedkar Residential School'. "We requested the naming as a way to recollect and remember those who have contributed to the building of the nation," Surpur said.

The letter was reviewed and a formal government order was passed recently. As of January 1, the decision has been taken to rename the schools after Ambedkar.

According to the letter, the schools educate a total of 8,500 students, with 25 students per class.

> **We requested the naming as a way to recollect and remember those who have contributed to the building of the nation**
>
> Dr Ravikumar Surpur, Social Welfare Commissioner

It may be noted that in 2017, the government had established the Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru, which offers a 5-year Integrated MSc in Economics, a 2-year MSc programme in Economics, and a PhD programme in the same field.

Ambedkar had obtained his MA and PhD from the London School of Economics. His doctoral thesis on 'The Indian Rupee', written in 1922-23, was later published as The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution.

TOUGH QUESTIONS

Why double-engine govt didn't clear Mekedatu in 3 yrs: Cong

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

THE Congress, which has planned a padayatra for the Mekedatu balancing reservoir project, has turned the tables on the BJP, accusing the latter's national general secretary C T Ravi of instigating Tamil Nadu BJP chief Annamalai to oppose the project.

Further accusing Annamalai of prevailing upon the BJP central leaders, Opposition leader Siddaramaiah alleged that the government is not giving clearance at the insistence of the former.

Coming down heavily on Ravi at the Congress convention in Chamrajanagar, Siddaramaiah pointed out that the duo were responsible for the delay in the Mekedatu project. He clarified that though there was a proposal for the Mekedatu reservoir project from 1962, it was his government that prepared a Detailed Project Report for Rs 5,912 crore, while D K Shivakumar as the Irrigation Minister got the revised DPR done for Rs 9,000 crore that needs environment clearance now.

"The BJP claims to be a double-engine government, but it has not exhibited its political will to get the project cleared. Why is it that the double-engine BJP government failed to get it done in the past three years?" he asked.

He said that the people of Chamarajanagar, who want water from Mekedatu, should ensure that at least one member from each family takes part in the padayatra.

Turning his attention to current Irrigation Minister Govind Karjol's claims that he possesses explosive documents, the former CM dared him to make them public so that people will know the truth.

Siddaramaiah said the party members had visited the district during the oxygen tragedy last year, and had exposed the failure of the government, which claimed only three had died, when the Deputy Commissioner and District Health Officer admitted that over 36 had lost their lives at the District Hospital. They thus exposed the lies of Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar, and also S Suresh Kumar, who was a minister at that time.

KPCC chief DK Shivakumar and Opposition leader Siddaramaiah at a Janajagruthi meet and party membership drive in Chamarajanagar on Sunday | UDAYSHANKAR S

BJP in hurry to pass Bill: DKS

MYSURU: KPCC president D K Shivakumar on Sunday alleged that the BJP government is in a hurry to push the anti-conversion Bill, rather than focusing on the livelihoods of people. He added that while the BJP focused more on dividing people and society, the Congress wanted to knit together a divided society in the interest of the nation. Addressing the Congress convention and membership drive at Chamarajanagar, Shivakumar said that many of BJP's assurances can be heard, but not seen. He added that the Siddaramaiah government had made big strides, with more than Rs 2,000 crore being released to each Assembly constituency. "Let the BJP leaders know what they have given and compare the people's plight during both regimes," he challenged. Shivakumar said that the people of Chamarajanagar have groomed leaders like R Druvanarayan and H S Mahadev Prasad, and claimed that the party will win all four seats from the district in the 2023 Assembly election.
Meanwhile, KPCC working president R Druvanarayan accused Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai of avoiding Chamarajanagar because of the fear of losing his post. He alleged that Bommai neither entered the town, nor consoled the families of those who lost their loved ones in the oxygen tragedy at the district hospital last year. **ENS**

Serial protests a sign of anti-incumbency against Bommai govt?

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

WITH the **Basavaraj Bommai**-led BJP dispensation in Karnataka facing a slew of issues, including protests against some of its policies, as the 2023 Assembly polls near, one must look out for any anti-incumbency against the government.

To begin with, the Karnataka State Contractors Association -- led by its president D Kempanna -- has petitioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot about alleged 40 per cent kickbacks for tenders from the government, which has now led members to hold a strike at Kalaburagi on January 3, with a mega rally planned in Bengaluru in the coming days as well.

Sedam MLA and BJP state spokesperson Rajkumar Patil Telkur, however, alleged that the association is sponsored by the Congress, since the latter had openly supported the contractors.

Meanwhile, thousands of striking guest faculty managed to receive sympathy from Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah. He had written to the government, urging it to fulfill the lecturers' demand for salary hikes.

Besides, the shadow of caste politics is also staring at the government. The Lingayat Panchamshalis are demanding the 2A category tag, which has been vehemently opposed by backward classes leaders. "We may end our lives outside the CM's residence in Bengaluru, if he concedes to the demand, which is an injustice to the backward class communities," warned Chamarajanagar MLA C Puttarangashetty, a close aide of Siddaramaiah.

It may be recalled that in the 2013 winter session in Belagavi, the SC Madiga community members had laid siege to the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, demanding the classification of SC quota, and were eventually caned by the police. The issue had reportedly helped the Congress come to power.

Now, there is an indication that the community could launch a fresh struggle, sources say. Meanwhile, Bommai is visibly making efforts in overcoming anti-incumbency. He recently made a decision to regularise gomala lands (grazing pastures), and also redefined deemed forests, apparently to help thousands of farmers in possession of lands, who were cultivating them for years.

This apart, the BJP government is likely to hold a cabinet reshuffle to usher in a change and bank on Bommai's ultimate budget to cope with the anti-incumbency factor, on which the Opposition Congress has been trying to return to power.

> **We may end our lives outside the CM's residence in Bengaluru, if he concedes to the demand, which is an injustice to the backward class communities**
>
> C Puttarangashetty, Chamarajanagar MLA

Byregowda is PAC chief

ENS @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri on Saturday appointed former minister and Byatarayanapura Congress MLA **Krishna Byregowda** as the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), after former speaker K R Ramesh Kumar refused to take charge, citing personal reasons.

But Kumar will continue as a member of the 20-member PAC, which plays a significant role in keeping a check on the government's expenditure, and also seeks probes over any noticeable discrepancies.

It was on December 27 that the Speaker formed the six standing committees, including the PAC.

Forty-eight-year-old Byregowda is the youngest chairman of the PAC, the post which was held by senior Congress leader H K Patil.

It may be noted that the recent controversial remarks by Ramesh Kumar during the Belagavi winter session had landed him in a soup, for which he later apologised.

Slanging match continues over temple control, conversions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE ruling BJP on Sunday slammed the Congress for opposing the Karnataka government's move to bring in a law to free temples from state control.

BJP national general secretary **C T Ravi**, who is in charge of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Goa, told reporters that the Congress does not have the mindset to address issues pertaining to the majority community. "Their stand is negative," he said.

On Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's announcement to introduce a bill in the next assembly session to free temples from government control, the senior BJP leader said Britishers took over temples not because they had respect for the Gods, but for the income they generated.

Opposition leader Siddaramaiah hit back, saying, "This is RSS agenda. Temples are independent even now. This is a plan to give the control of temples to someone else. The government budgetary allocation for temples is about Rs 350 crore. When this allocation is there, it means the most underprivileged citizen has the right to access the temple. To take away control of the temple is to take it away from the government."

Enough safeguards

According to Ravi, a government eyeing the revenue of temples is against the spirit of freedom of the country. Taking a dig at the Congress for opposing the anti-conversion bill, he said, "The anti-conversion law is only against forced conversion. The Congress should clarify whether it is in favour of forcible conversions."

In response, Siddaramaiah said, "We too are against forced conversions. There are enough safeguards in the Constitution against forced conversions. Where is the need for a separate law?"

"Our party will not tolerate hurting of Hindu sentiments. Anyone erecting statues of Jesus Christ or Buddha is not a problem, but trouble starts when the name of Kapali Hill is changed," warned Ravi.

To this, Bengaluru Rural MP DK Suresh, in whose limits Kapali betta is located, said, "It has been a Christian village for about 200 years and the hillock is inside the village limits. We respect all religions, let them instal a statue of Sri Rama or Sri Hanuman, we will help them."

System should address learning deprivation, look at holistic growth of children

LOOKING AHEAD 2022

THE education system in India has suffered with one of the longest disruptions and deprivation of the learning process due to school closure, and Karnataka is no exception to this. Because of this, a majority of children — especially from marginalised communities — were deprived of their fundamental right to education and other supportive rights, including nutrition and well-being. It is needless to say that children with special needs, and girls from marginalised communities have been impacted much more. A majority of them have also been deprived of care and protection, as provided in the Constitution, and other international legal instruments including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Multiple strategies need to be developed appropriately by rising to the occasion and meeting the needs of the children to cope with the situation. But a standard response of one-size-fits-all does not work in this situation. A more decentralised planning and execution would make more sense at this point of time.

The proposed interventions should include academic, cognitive, psycho-social and emotional needs of children for holistic growth to address physical, psychological and educational needs of the children. Re-engaging children with education and strengthening their "learning to learn" abilities is one of the most challenging tasks before the state. To address the learning deprivation, competencies that are foundational and core in each subject and grade can be used as the basis to plan their learning trajectory.

DR NIRANJANARADHYA VP
Development Educationist, Mentor of SDMCs and Chief Advocate of Neighbourhood Common School System through State-Funded Public Education

The competencies should be graded and progressively organised, varying in complexities across classes to help teachers address multi-level learners in their classrooms.

Bypassing this process and proceeding to grade-level competencies can lead to disengaged learners and more dropouts. Many children of Class 1 to 5 may have never gone to school during the pandemic and online education did not make any impact on their learning. Therefore, special focus and well-designed programmes are necessary to orient them to a new environment. One teacher per class needs to be ensured.

Socio-emotional support should be provided both within and outside schools. Schools should take the initiative to link with families to support child health requirements, both physical and mental. Periodic communication with parent bodies like SDMC/SMC about schoolwork, children's progress, issues and challenges helps to involve the community in the renewal of the education process. Consistent and continuous efforts to involve parents and the larger community in school programmes and learning activities need to be planned cautiously to enhance community participation. Organising monthly meetings with parents in schools or in the community at a time convenient to parents would boost school-parent relationship and enhance their participation in school activities, which is crucial at this juncture. Parent meetings can also be scheduled frequently at the cluster level to interact with teachers. Academic bodies can play a major role in resuming and renewing education, especially in helping to design and implement a restructured curriculum for a meaningful learning process.

A 43-year-old man was killed when a tree branch fell on him at Addahole in Shiradi village on Sunday. Suresh Navada, who works at an IT firm and a resident of Bommanahalli, was returning to Bengaluru with his wife and two children from Pavanje. They stopped their car near Addahole at 7.30 am. Navada was alighting from the car, when the branch fell on him.

Can't react to ignorant statements, says Kerala Governor on D Litt row

Guv, President offices should not be subject of loose talk, says Arif Mohammed Khan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kochi

THE controversy over whether the government engineered a veto of **Governor Arif Mohammed Khan**'s proposal to confer honorary DLitt on President Ram Nath Kovind refused to die down with Khan on Friday saying the office of the Governor and the President should not be discussed "in a light manner."

Khan, who neither confirmed nor denied whether he made such a recommendation to the Kerala University VC, also told reporters in Kochi that he could not react to ignorant statements (on the matter). His words drew sharp rebuke from Opposition Leader V D Satheesan, who said the governor's office was not above criticism.

Khan, who was in Kochi to welcome Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu on his three-day visit to the city, said, "As far as making any recommendation (on DLitt to President) is concerned, I'm the chancellor. It's up to the university or the Chancellor to comment on it. I can't react to ignorant statements."

"The Constitution makes it binding on us to respect national symbols and national institutions. The President and Governor are considered national institutions. Please exercise some discretion. Don't make the offices a subject of discussion in a light manner," he said.

However, Satheesan said the governor was not above criticism. "I'm not saying the President should not be conferred DLitt. What I'm saying is if the governor made such a recommendation, it should have been done through a proper proposal to the VC. The varsity syndicate would have been forced to take up the matter. Conferment of DLitt to the President is not something that should have been told privately to the VC," he said.

Meanwhile, BJP state president K Surendran attacked Satheesan saying the Opposition leader was behaving like a member of the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's cabinet. "There is an unholy nexus between the state government and the principal Opposition. The CM and the Opposition leader are targeting the governor," he said.

Meanwhile, for the second day in a row, Satheesan has snubbed his predecessor Ramesh Chennithala on the DLitt row. In Kochi on Sunday, Satheesan declared categorically that what Sudhakaran and he say is the party's stand

Satheesan has been peeved with Chennithala over the last several months over what is thought to be the latter's bid to act like a 'super opposition leader' bypassing him and the party on several occasions. The Congress political affairs committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday is expected to be stormy in the wake of the raging controversy.

Ever since Governor Arif went public with his criticism of the LDF government over the alleged political interference in the functioning of the universities, the Opposition has been highlighting the actions of the higher education ministry.

Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu boards India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, in Kochi on Sunday | PTI

Naidu: Vikrant shining example of quest for Atma Nirbharta

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kochi

VICE-President M Venkaiah Naidu — who reviewed the progress of the work on the indigenous aircraft carrier, Vikrant, at the Cochin Shipyard on Sunday — has said that the capability in designing and constructing an aircraft carrier is a shining example of the nation's quest for 'Atma Nirbharta', or self-reliant India.

Naidu also appreciated the efforts of the Indian Navy and the Cochin Shipyard towards strengthening indigenous warship building capabilities, and expressed satisfaction at the progress made so far despite Covid-related challenges. He visited the shipyard after returning to Kochi from Lakshadweep.

Earlier, the Vice-President was accorded a warm reception at the naval airport in Kochi. He reached the city on a special Indian Air Force plane. Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Kochi Mayor M Anil Kumar and Industries Minister P Rajeeve welcomed him at the airport.

Cochin Shipyard chairman and managing director Madhu S Nair briefed Naidu in detail on the uniqueness of the IAC project, the progress of construction and the contribution of indigenous technologies. The chairman also explained the shipyard's strengths and its contributions in developing indigenous technologies and creating world class capabilities.

The Vice President was also briefed on the efforts being made towards the ship's delivery and commissioning before August 2022 to commemorate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

The indigenous content in the construction of the IAC is close to 76% of the overall project cost of Rs 19,341 crore. Naidu also visited the hanger and flight decks of the vessel.

Man hangs self after killing wife, 2 children

ENS @ Chennai

A 36-year-old man allegedly beat his wife to death with a cricket bat, strangled his two sons, and died by suicide at his apartment in Chennai. The incident came to light on Sunday, when neighbours grew suspicious of the apartment that remained locked, and called the police.

The police broke open the front door and found the bodies. The deceased are Manikandan, 35, a banker, his wife Tharaga Priya, 30, and their sons Tharan, 11, and Thagan (one-and-a-half).

Manikandan's friends said that he was under severe stress due to his unpaid debts. This could have led him to take the extreme step, the police said, and added that Manikandan was not at work in the bank for the past three months due to unknown reasons. According to statements from neighbours, the couple used to quarrel often over the debt.

Activists assault pastor, charge him with conversion

ENS @ Belagavi

RIGHT-wing Hindutva activists assaulted a family in Mudalagi, Belagavi district, accusing the members of converting their neighbours to Christianity. The attack took place recently, when pastor Akshaykumar Karaganvi was holding prayers at his residence. The activists barged into his house and attacked him and a woman.

The pastor's family alleged that the attackers picked up a vessel from a stove and threw hot curry on to a woman, who started screaming and writhing in pain.

Ghataprabha police registered an FIR against seven individuals -- Shivanand Shivalingappa, Ramesh Dandapur, Parasappa Babu, Fakirappa Bagewadi, Krishna Kantikar, Chetan Rajendra and Mahantesh Basalingappa, all residents of Mudalagi.

Police booked cases against them, invoking sections of rioting, criminal trespass, assault, robbery and criminal intimidation, and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act.

HIS MASTER'S PAWN

Ahead of the Pongal festival, a youth training his jallikattu bull at Mudakathan in Madurai | KK SUNDAR

'None from mutt approached us'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The permit had allowed shifting of the animal to Moti Khavdi near Jamnagar in Gujarat. "But none of the mutt authorities had approached us for the process to be done," he added.

Earlier, an NGO, People for Animals, in Mysuru moved the Karnataka High Court, saying the forest department should take back the animal from the mutt as it violated the guidelines.

Domestic help found hanging in Bellandur

ENS @ Bengaluru

AN 18-year-old domestic help was found hanging at the house of a software engineer in an apartment in Bellandur on Saturday. The police registered a case of unnatural death. The deceased, Kavita, a resident of Jakkasandra, was working at Vivek Krishnan's house for the last eight months.

The police said the incident occurred around 9.30 am as she was alone at home, while the couple had gone for a walk. After returning, Krishnan found the body and alerted Bellandur police. The body was handed over to the family after postmortem. Preliminary probe revealed that Kavitha's father left the family a few years ago and she was depressed.

(If you are having suicidal thoughts or are in emotional distress, help is available. You can get in touch with SAHAI helpline (080-25497777) and 104 Arogya Sahayavani available 24/7)

GPS-tracked vehicles in Nagarhole from mid-January

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

TO reduce pressure in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve (NTR) and streamline safaris, the state forest department is working on introducing buffer zone tourism. Also, all safari vehicles will be fitted with GPS from mid-January.

The aim is to reduce rising pressure on the prime tiger reserve of the country, bring down the tourist rush which is exceeding the carrying capacity that will help in better conservation. Department officials said it is also to protect buffer zones and discipline tourists.

A pilot was conducted with GPS-enabled vehicles at Kabini and Sunkadakatte ranges and it proved to be successful.

"The idea of buffer zone tourism has been approved by the Tiger Conservation Committee and now a nod from the government is awaited. This type of safari can be done at Tittimati and Periyapatna, covering around 100-120 sqkm. The area is rich in wildlife with tigers, leopards, elephants, sloth bears, gaurs and other herbivores. Due to a rise in population, tiger sightings are also high in buffer zones. It will help break the tiger-centric tourism," said a senior official.

It will be a first in the state and also the country. Tourists will no longer have to wait for long hours inside reserves for safaris and they can also be prevented from violating norms under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The aim is to reduce rising pressure on the prime tiger reserve of the country

"Many tigers have moved to the fringes, where sightings are increasing. These areas need focus and protection as cases of conflict are also rising. Introducing tourism in these areas is a better solution to address these issues. The proposal needs approval as the a rea is part of the tiger reserve," the official added.

Vehicles are being fitted with GPS as tourists stop at one place for one to two hours after sighting a black panther or a tiger. With GPS, if any vehicle stops at a spot for a longer time, an alert will be sent to the head office control room and the driver will be warned, the official added.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister
COVAXIN VACCINATION DRIVE FOR
CHILDREN IN THE AGE GROUP OF
15–18 YEARS
STATEWIDE FROM JANUARY 3, 2022
Children born in the year 2007 or before will be vaccinated in their respective schools/colleges or at any nearby COVID-19 Vaccination site.
Mobile numbers of Children's parents/ care takers / school teachers or Headmasters will be used for vaccination of the children.
Vaccine will be given free of cost to these children at all Government COVID-19 Vaccination sites.
Registration on COWIN portal will be done using School Identity card or Aadhaar card at the Vaccination site.
Dr. K. Sudhakar, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, GoK, receiving the India Today Healthgiri Award from Sri Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare.
As is enshrined in our Constitution, to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country
karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations

Dr MR Venkatesh, president, Sri Thyagaraja Cooperative Bank said that the latest saving scheme exclusive for girls 'Isiri Samruddhi Yojane' has been introduced to facilitate their future endeavours. "Girls, who open savings account in this scheme, will be given education loans without any collateral security. The deposists would be paid an interest of 7.5% per annum," he said. He also said that the bank is introducing a new short-term gold loan scheme with low interest rate and no hidden charges to free customers from the clutches of private gold loan providers. MP Tejasvi Surya said, "The bank's Isiri Samruddhi Yojane is a visionary step towards women empowerment and is highly appreciable. The scheme is in line with the Central Government's 'Sukanya Samriddhi Yojane' and is probably the first of its kind in the country being introduced by a cooperative bank.

Omicron spike in Odisha, Kerala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhubaneswar, Kochi

ODISHA on Sunday reported a major spike in Omicron cases as 23 more tested positive for the new variant, pushing the tally of the infectious strain to 37 in the State. A major concern is, over 50 per cent of these cases are local in nature.

The State also witnessed a steep rise in daily Covid-19 cases with 424 more confirmed infections reported during the last 24 hours. Director of State Health Services Dr Bijay Mohapatra said of the 23 new Omicron cases, 19 are male and four female. A health worker from Keonjhar and three hotel staff from Puri have also been infected with the super mutant strain. Besides, one Omicron case has also been reported from Boudh.

Meanwhile in Kerala, Sunday marked the end of the four-day night curfew imposed by the state government on December 30 in view of the rise in Omicron cases. However, the day also saw Kerala's Omicron tally cross the 150-mark as 45 more persons tested positive for the highly contagious Covid-19 variant.

KALYAN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
CIVIL DIVISION, KALABURAGI

MSK Mill Road, Jewargi Cross Kalaburagi. nekrtceeglb@gmail.com

No: KKT/EEG/KLB/DB/ 712 /2021-22 Date: 30 /12/2021

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Commercial Space in KKRTC Service Tender Notification No. 08 / 2021-22

KKRTC is a Public Sector Under Taking (PSU), providing Transport to the public. In order to augment revenue and give economic momentum, KKRTC has identified following place located on the main road of Kalaburagi City of KKRTC Region. The intent is to fetch the sufficient commercial income. Hence we propose PPP in the following place.

As a marketing initiative, KKRTC invites Expression Of Interest (EOI) from international/ National interested Legal Entities including joint ventures, consortium etc for availing commercial spaces on lease bases.

1) Name of places. **Existing place of KKRTC Central Office, Station Road Kalaburagi.**
2) Approximate Area available: **30 Gunta**

Project Highlights

1) Sites is situated in the most commercial viable area, and on Main Road of Kalaburagi City 2) Total controlled area for public. 3) Suitable for, offices complex, Banks, Showrooms, and Mall etc., 4) Drinking water supply and drainage arrangements facilities.

Interested parties/agencies/Developers & Companies are requested to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) in a prescribed format available in the office and for further details contact 08472-220663, & EE- +917760992033, AE- +7795662853 or visit office of Executive Engineer, KKRTC CE Division, MSK Mill Road Jewargi Cross, Kalaburagi.

(1) Pre-Bid Date : 13-01-2022 (2) Pre-Bid Response Date :24-01-2022
(3) Last date for Submission of EOI : 07-02-2022

Note : This EOI will not from part of the procurement process to be subsequently followed by the Department for developing the project. The EOI is only to elicit the interest of an entity in the project and will not be used either to short list or disqualify a prospective bidder.

DIP/Kalaburagi/888/MC&A/2021-22 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

varthana — Varthana Finance Private Limited
(Formerly known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.,)

Registered Office at : No. 5BC-110, Varasiddhi, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com, Phone: 080-68455777, Branch Office: Varasiddhi, 5BC-110, 3rd Floor, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore- 560043.

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sub-Section (2) of Section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 as amended by The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amdt.) Act, 2016 (44 of 2016) and further Amended by The Security Interest (Enforcement) (Amendment) Rules, 2018.

We, **M/s. Varthana Finance Private Limited, (hereinafter referred to as "The Company " for sake of brevity and formerly known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Pvt. Ltd.,)** is a Non-Banking Finance Company, Incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 and registered with the Reserve Bank of India, having its registered office at Bangalore as mentioned in the above Address, and one of its Branches at Bangalore (hereinafter referred as " Branch") hereby issue the following notice under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 to You being the Applicant/Co-Applicants and the Mortgagors for the Recovery of the Outstanding dues. Demand Notice issued on **07.07.2021**, the contents of which are being published herewith as per Sec.13(2) of the Act R/w Rule.3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, by way of alternative service upon the Applicant and Co-Applicant No. 1 and 2 for service of notice, since notices could not be served on the given addresses.

You had approached our Bangalore branch for Credit Facility for school and accordingly made an application. The Company had considered your request and sanctioned the same, details of which are as hereunder.

Loan Account No : S18BLR-BLR-002102 and BLR08742S, Sanctioned Loan Amount : Rs.10,00,000/-, & Rs. 40,25,080/-, Total Liability as on 02.07.2021 : Rs. 51,89,381/-, Name & Addresses of Applicant & Co-Applicants : 1). M/s. New Citizens High School, Represented by It's Authoirsed Signatory, **2). M/s. New Citizens Education Society,** Represented by It's Authorised Signatory, No.1 & 2 are having office at # 50, Coffee Board Colony, Chikkanna Layout, Shampur Main Road, Bangalore - 560045, **3). Ashraff Ulla Khan,** S/o. Gouse Khan B malli, **4). Haseen,** W/o. Abdul Subaan, No. 3 and 4 are residing at No 154, Anam Enclave, 10th Cross, Thanisandra, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560077.

You No.1 to 4 are Applicant/Co-Applicants/Mortgagors have executed the necessary security documents in favour of the Company to secure the repayment of dues and payable under the said Loan agreement.

The Manager/Collection Manager and other officers of the Company have repeatedly requested to all of you, to pay the outstanding amount and to ensure that the account does not become a Non-performing Asset, but you wilfully and unjustifiably failed to pay and not heeded to the innumerable requests made to you from time to time and as a result, the above mentioned account has been classified as Non Performing Asset on **30.04.2021.**

By virtue of the documents duly executed by the Mortgagor, the charge has been created in favour of the Company on the below mentioned Security. The Company hereby informs all of you that, under Sub-Section (13) of Section 13 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act) you shall, after receipt of this notice refrain from either transfer by way of Sale, Lease or otherwise create third party interest in any of the below mentioned secured assets, without prior written consent of the Company. The Applicant/Co-Applicants and Mortgagors attention is invited to sub-section (8) of Section 13 in respect of time available to redeem the Secured Assets.

In view of the above the Company hereby issues this notice under Sub-Sec (2) of the Section 13 of the Act and calls upon you all to pay, a sum of **Rs. 51,89,381/- (Rupees Fifty One Lac Eighty Nine Thousand Three Hundred And Eighty One Only)** as on **02.07.2021,** with interest from **03.07.2021,** with agreed contractual rate of interest untill the date of payment, together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges, within 60 days of receipt of this notice, failing which the Company shall be constrained to attach, sell and/or take all actions as envisaged in Sub-Sec (4) of Sec.13 of the Act and/or adopt any other legal proceedings against all of you before the competent Court/Authority.

If you have any representations to be made in response to this Notice, please mark the same to The Authorised Officer, M/s. The Varthana Finance Private Ltd., No.5BC-110, 'Varasiddhi', 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore – 560043, to enable us to respond in time. Please note we shall not be responsible for not responding to any representations made in response to this notice if the same is addrressed to any other person or place.

Details of Immovable Property : All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Southern Portion of New Khata No.1908/1465/1-106, Property No.106, Measuring 1316 Sq Ft, Situated at Kadugondahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore and bounded on, On East : Private Property, On West : 15 Ft Road, On North : Tabraizulla's Property, On South : Private Property.

Memorandum of Deposit of Title Deed executed by M/s. New Citizens Education Society, Represented by Smt. Haseen Taj & Ashrafulla Khan, Regd Doc No.KCH-1-02449/2016-17 CD No. KCHD211, on 08.09.2016, Sr, Sub Registrar Office Gandhi Nagar (Kacharkanahalli), Bangalore.

Date : 03.01.2022, Place :Bangalore. Authorised Officer, Varthana Finance Private Limited,

The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited
H.O, No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560 018.
Phone 26677552, 26679041

PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

The Borrower **Sri D.A.Raju,** S/o Sri D.A.Anthony Dass, R/a No.10/1, 15th A Main Road, 66th Cross, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-10. The debt due to Bank as on **31.12.2021** of **Rs.84,86,675/-** + Interest & miscellaneous expenses. Auction sale under the securitization and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforce of Security Interest Act 2002 Section 13(4) of the Immovable properties mortgaged to The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., is brought to Sale under **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION"on 20.01.2022, Thursday at 11.00 am.**

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing Old No.801 and present No.801/1/2, 76th "A" cross, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore.560010. The Schedule property is within the limits of BBMP Bangalore with BBMP allotted PID No.21-17-1/2, Measuring East To West :27 feet & North To South:40 feet in all totally measuring 1080 Sq.ft. the Schedule property consisting of Ground, First, Second and Third Floors**, (THE TITLE HOLDER HAVING ABSOLUTE RIGHT OVER THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY EXCEPT SECOND FLOOR OF ENTIRE PORTION)** and bounded on the East by: Site No.800, West by: Site No.802, North by: Government Property & South By: Road

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(1) The public auction will be conducted in the premises of The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Head Office No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018.
(2) For participation in the auction the intending bidders have to deposit an amount of Rs.9,36,513/- equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price of the property Rs.93,65,130/- being cautioned deposit by means of Demand Draft/Pay Order drawn in favour of M/s.The Grain Merchant's Co.Operative Bank Ltd., The cautioned deposit shall be forfeited by the bank without any prior notice, if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms of sale, time and commits default in any manner.
(3) The Property "SHALL NOT" be sold below the reserve price
(4) In case the bidder is not successful the EMD amount shall be refund without interest.
(5) The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD) immediately after the auction sale, on the same day, in Cash or Demand Draft and the balance of the Sale price within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale. In case of default by the successful bidder, all the amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited without notice and the property shall be put for re-auction.
(6) The successful bidder shall bear the statutory dues/taxes/charges/property tax/electricity charges/water charges/conveyance charges such as stamp duty, registration fee etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed in his favour, as per the applicable laws.
(7) The authorized officer has absolute right to accept or reject any or all if the tender or/bid/ offer and/or adjourn/postpone/ cancel the auction sale without assigning any reason, and also to modify an or all terms and conditions of the sale without prior notice.
(8) The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank.
(9) The property can be inspected by the intending bidder between 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. at his/her expenses at the address mentioned in the schedule.
(10) The property is put for sale on **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" AND "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION"** the intending bidder shall satisfy himself about the title,ownership,statutory approvals, encumbrances etc. of the property.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
The Grain Merchants' Co Operative Bank Ltd.,

Place: Bangalore
Date: 31.12.2021

CONDUCT OF UHQ RALLY AT THE MADRAS REGIMENTAL CENTRE, WELLINGTON FROM 27 JAN 2022 TO 04 FEB 2022

1. The Madras Regimental Centre will be conducting UHQ Rally at **'Thangaraj Stadium'**, Wellington, Nilgiris - District, Tamil Nadu. Schedule of the Rally programme are as under :-

S No	Date of Rally	Events	State
(a)	27 to 29 Jan 2022	Sports Trial for outstanding **Sportsmen**	All State/UT
(b)	31 Jan 2022	Soldier GD	Tamilnadu/ Andaman & Nicobar and Pcy states only
(c)	01 Feb 2022	Soldier GD	Kerala state & Lakshadweep only
(d)	02 Feb 2022	Soldier GD	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State only
(e)	03 Feb 2022	Soldier GD	Karnataka State only
(f)	04 Feb 2022	**Soldier Tradesmen including Musician**	All State/UT

2. The Rally will conducts for wards of serving soldiers/ ex-servicemen/ widow/ war widow & real brothers of serving soldier/ ex-servicemen and open category for Sportsmen & musician.
3. **Age Criteria :-**
(a) Soldier GD (incl Sportsmen). 17½ to 21 years. (Date of Birth should be between 01 Feb 2001 to 01 Aug 2004).
(b) Soldier Tdn. 17½ to 23 years.(Date of Birth should be between 01 Feb 1999to 01 Aug 2004).
4. **Education Qualification :-**
(a) **Soldier GD (incl Sportsmen)**. 10th / SSLC/ Matric with min of 45% marks in aggregate and 33% marks in each subject. Candidates having higher qualification need not have 45% marks in class 10th.
(b) **Soldier Tdn**. 10th Pass (8th pass for House Keeper & Mess Keeper only).
5. **Sports Trials**. Dates for conducting of Sports Trials are as given below :-

S No	Date	Time	Event
(a)	27 Jan 2022	0800H	Athletics & Shooting
		1400H	Basket Ball & Body Building (Best physique)
(b)	28 Jan 2022	0800H	Football & Boxing
		1400H	Hockey
(c)	29 Jan 2022	0800H	Volleyball & Sports Climbing
		1400H	Handball & Kabaddi

6. Original Relationship Certificate issued by concerned Record Office for wards of Serving Soldier/ Ex-servicemen alongwith monthly Pay Slip / Discharge/ Pension Book in original in respect of wards of serving PBOR/ pensioners. (Relationship cert issued by any other agencies will not be accepted).
7. All Candidates are required to carry **masks, gloves, hand sanitizer** and **produce a COVID-19 free/asymptomatic certificate and NO Risk Certificate** at the time of entry from gate of this establishment, when they report for the rally. Asymptomatic Certificate from medical authority should have been issued with 48 hours prior to the rally reporting day.

Central Bank of India

Indira Nagar Branch, No 853, 1st floor, 10 th Main Road, 4th Cross Indira Nagar II Stage, Bangalore - 560038, Ph: 080- 25253320 - 080- 25200299 E-Mail: bmbang1425@centralbank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
Rule 8(1)
(for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Chief Manager & the Authorized officer of the **CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, Indiranagar Branch Bangalore,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notices calling upon the borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act 2002 read with rule 8 of the said rules on below mentioned dates.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any one dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, Indiranagar Branch for an amount mentioned below plus further interest and charges thereon , less repayment made if any.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section(13) of the act,in respect of the time available to redeem the secured assets.

1. **Name of the Borrowers** : **1) Mr. Ramaiah B** S/o. Mr. Bodappa , No. 298, 9th Cross, Gandhipura, Whitefield, Bangalore - 560 066. **2) Mrs Lakshmi** W/o Ramaiah B., No. 298, 9th Cross, Gandhipura, Whitefield, Bangalore - 560 066.
Guarantor:Mrs. M. Anusuya, W/o. Venkateshwar Rao, No. 391, 9th Cross, Gandhipura, Whitefield, Bangalore - 560 066.
Demand Notice date : 13.07.2021
Outstanding amount: Rs. 52,98,942.17 (Rupees Fifty Two lakh ninety eight thousand nine hundred forty two and paise seventeen only) as on 13.07.2021 plus interest and charges thereon
Possession Taken date : 28.12.2021
Description of the immovable property: Equitable Mortgage of all that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing site No. 391, Khata No. 235/287 situted at Gandhipura Village, Hagdur Grama, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Talku, Bangalore measuring East to West 50 feet, North to South 30 feet with construction standing on it and bounded as follows : North by : Site Number 392, South by : Site No. 390, East by : Road, West by : Site No. 388.
2. **Name of the Borrowers : 1) Mr. S. Manjunatha** S/o. Mr. M. Srinivas A 103, First Floor, Bhoomika Blue Bells, Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore - 560 068. **2) Mrs. K. R. Geethanjali,** W/o Mr. S. Manjunatha, A 103, First Floor, Bhoomika Blue Bells, Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore - 560 068.
Demand Notice date : 14.07.2021
Outstanding amount: Rs. 41,19,202/- (Rupees Forty one lakh nineteen thousand two hundred and two only) as on 14.07.2021 plus interest and charges thereon
Possession Taken date : 28.12.2021
Description of the immovable property: Equitable Mortgage of all that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Flat No. 103, in the First Floor measuring about 990 sq.feet super built up area, containing Two bed rooms with one covered car parking space including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, loggies, staircase etc. in the multistoried residential building known as "Bhoomika Blue Bells" constructed over residential converted land bearing survey No. 65/1 measuring 5.8 guntas and survey no. 65/2 measuring 10.8 guntas totally measuring 16 guntas in which 5.8 guntas from west to southern side situated at Hongasndra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore converted to its vide official memoramdum dated 13.02.2014 bearing No. ALS(SB)(BH) SR26/2012-13 and bounded as follows: North by : Constructed house in 5 guntas belongs to Swapna HP, South by : Sri Bakka Reddy property, East by : Road and remaining portion of 10.8 Guntas of converted land , West by : Private Property.
3. **Name of the Borrowers : 1) Mr. S. Manjunatha** S/o. Mr. M. Srinivas, G 004, Ground Floor, Bhoomika Blue Bells, Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore - 560 068. **2) Mrs. K. R. Geethanjali,** W/o G 004, Ground Floor, Bhoomika Blue Bells, Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore - 560 068.
Demand Notice date : 14.07.2021
Outstanding amount: Rs. 40,80,282/- (Rupees Forty lakh eighty thousand two hundred and eighty two only) as on 14.07.2021 plus interest and charges thereon
Possession Taken date : 28.12.2021
Description of the immovable property: Equitable Mortgage of all that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Flat No. 004, in the Ground Floor measuring about 985 sq.feet super built up area, containing Two bed rooms with one covered car parking space including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, loggies, staircase etc. in the multistoried residential building known as "Bhoomika Blue Bells" constructed over residential converted land bearing survey No. 65/1 measuring 5.8 guntas and survey no. 65/2 measuring 10.8 guntas totally measuring 16 guntas in which 5.8 guntas from west to southern side situated at Hongasndra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore converted to its vide official memoramdum dated 13.02.2014 bearing No. ALS(SB)(BH) SR26/2012-13 and bounded as follows: North by : Constructed house in 5 guntas belongs to Swapna HP, South by : Sri Bakka Reddy property, East by : Road and remaining portion of 10.8 Guntas of converted land , West by : Private Property.

Date :28.12.2021 Sd/- **Authorised Officer/Chief Manager**
Place : Bangalore Central Bank of India

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Sharan Kabbinahalli Shashidhar** S/o Sashidhara Kabbinahalli Mallegowda, 46 years, Resident of Shivagange Estate, Mallandur Post, Chickmagalur -577130 I have changed my Name from Sharan Sashidhara Kabbinahalli to **SHARAN KABBINAHALLI SHASHIDHAR.** For all purposes Vide Affidavit Dated 23.12.2021 Sworn before Advocate and Notary Mahesha J. J, Bengaluru.

DECLARATION

I, **KUCKHALLI MOHAMMED ASIFF,** S/o. K. Abdul Hameed, aged 49 year, flat No. 401, A Block, Fourth Floor, Amigo Lakeview, Sy. No. 105, Thirumenahalli, Agrahara Badavane opposite to Wisdom International School, Bangalore - 560 064, hereby declare that I have rectifying my name from **KUCKHALLY MOHMED ASSIFF** to **KUCKHALLI MOHAMMED ASIFF**, hereafter I shall known and called as **KUCKHALLI MOHAMMED ASIFF** only, vide affidavit dated 01.01.2022, sworn before G.R. Ravichandra Reddy, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

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IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE I ADDL FAMILY COURT AT MYSURU
M.C.No.806/2021

IN THE MATTER OF :
Petitioner : Smt. Geetha, W/o Sri. Jahadeesh .N.C, Aged about 60 years, R/at # 551, Ranganatha Krupa, Ground Floor, 9th Cross, Sathya Marga, Siddarthanagar, Mysuru - 570011
Versus
Respondent: Sri. Jagadeesh .N.C, S/o Sri.Chandrashekaraiah .N, Aged about 60 years, R/at No.1996, Guru Krupa, 5th Cross, 'K' Block, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru

PAPER PUBLICATION

It is hereby notified to you, the Respondent in the above case, that the Petitioner has filed the above petition against you under Section 13(1) (ia) & (ib) if Hindu Marriage Act 1955 before the Hon'ble Principal Judge I Additional Family Court, at Mysore seeking a decree of divorce for the dissolution of marriage dated 24-05-2002. The said case now stands posted to **04-02-2022** for your personal appearance at 11 am. If you do not appear on the said date at that time, you will be placed exparte and further proceedings will be proceeded with, in your absence.

Given under my hand seal

By the Order of the Court
Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer
Family Court, Mysore

Advocate for the petitioner
Place : Mysuru
Date : 23-12-2021

NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU BENCH CORPORATE BHAVAN, 12TH FLOOR, RAHEJA TOWER, M.G. ROAD BENGALURU-560001
Ref. No. NCLTB/ CP NO. (IB)/21/BB/2020
Date: 07.12.2021

M/s MFAR CONSTRUCTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED ... Operational Creditor
-V/s-
M/s CANOPY ESTATES PRIVATE LIMITED ... Corporate Debtor
(Under Section 9 of the I & B Code, 2016)

The above petition has been filed under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy code, 2016 r/w Rule 6 (1) of insolvency & Bankruptcy-(Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rules, 2016 on 13.11.2019, wherein M/s CANOPY ESTATES PRIVATE LIMIED is cited as corporate debtor.

The matter came up before the Hon'ble Bench on 30.11.2021 and the Hon'ble bench has passed the following orders.

"Issue Notice. Registry is directed to issue notice to the MD of the Corporate Debtor Company and also to the Company. The learned Counsel for the Petitioner is also permitted to collect notice from the registry and serve it personally on the MD of the Corporate Debtor and to the Company along with copy of the Company petition and material papers through e mail as well as by Speed Post and submit proof of service in the registry well before the next date of hearing".

Accordingly, Notice is hereby given to you to appear in person or through an authorized representative before this Tribunal on **18.01.2022** at 10.30 a.m. for hearing, failing which matter will be heard and disposed in your absence.

COURT OFFICER
NCLT-BENGALURU BENCH

To, Ref. No.NCLTB/ CP NO. (IB)/21/BB/2020
1. The Managing Director: M/s CANOPY ESTATES PRIVATE LIMITED, Registered Office at: No.969, 5th A cross, HRBR 1st Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043.
2. The Managing Director: M/s CANOPY ESTATES PRIVATE LIMITED, Registered Office at: No.969, 5th A cross, HRBR 1st Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that, my client Mr. Syed Mohammed Aga S/o Late Mudeer Aga is willing to purchase the property bearing Site No.109, situated at Koramangala I Stage, Bangalore, morefully described under the schedule hereunder referred as Schedule Property from its owner Mr. T.D. Lonappan S/o T.P. Devassy.

Any person having any right, title and interest in the Schedule property other than Mr.T.D.Lonappan S/o T.P. Devassy shall inform the undersigned along with all supporting documents establishing their claim within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no claim/objection is received within stipulated time, it will be understood that the Schedule property is free from claims / objections / encumbrances etc., and my client would proceed to purchase the schedule property in accordance with law.

'SCHEDULE PROPERTY'

All that piece and parcel of the Site bearing No.109, Koramangala I Stage, Bangalore Measuring East to West 6.30 mtrs and North to South 18.00 mtrs and bounded on East by: Road, West by: Site No.110, North by: Road, South by: Site No.126

Naveed Ahmed, Advocate
AHMED ASSOCIATES
No.19/19, 1st Floor, Miller Road, 1st Cross, Benson Town, Bangalore 560046. Ph: 9620245382

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is here by informed that my client **J.P.BEENA** D/o J.P. Purushoththam, R. At #16, 12th D Main, Muthyalanagara, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore - 560054 is intending to purchace tht below mentioned Schedule of Property from its onwers, **1. V. Papanna** S/o Late Gowdara Venkatappa, **2. Smt Bangaramma** W/o V.Papanna, **3. P. Parameshwara** S/o V. Papanna, **4. P. Venkatesh Reddy** S/o V. Papanna, **5. P.Amaresh** S/o V. Papanna all are residing at Number 89/1 Behind R.C.I.S, Chelakere Grama, Kalyananagar Post, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560043. If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substatiating is / her / their objectin / claims detail of the disputes within 15 days from the date of this publication failing which, My client will proceed to complete sale transaction with the above owners as if there are no 3rd party claims / objectins / disputes In respect of the schedule property and there after no claims / objections / disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing site No. 1411 measuring East-West 18 meter, North-South 12 meter, which is formed by BDA in Sy No. 74/6, 75/6, 7th Block, Arkavathi Layout, Jakkuru Village, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore bounded on : **East by :** Site No. 1388 & 1389, **West by :** Road, **North by :** Site No. 1410, **South by :** Site No. 1412.

NAGARAJU.S, Advocate,
27, Thippagondanahalli, T. Begur Post, Nelamangala Taluk-562123 Bangalore Rural District. **Mobile :8494900488**
E-mail : jpbrijesh2@gmail.com

QuoteExpress

PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES

ROBERT H SCHULLER

PUBLIC NOTICE

On behalf of Somashekar V, S/o Late Vijayanarasimha, aged about 26 Years and Smt. Jayamma W/o Late Vijayanarasimha, aged about 46 Years, R/at Chinnakuruchi Dhakale, Tittahalli Village, K Gollahalli Post, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560074, I am bringing to the public as follows:

Above mentioned our clients have filed Criminal Miscellaneous Petition No. 312/2021, before 2nd Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru Rural at Bengaluru and sought for an order to direct the registrar of birth and deaths, Bengaluru South Taluk Officer, Bengaluru and another to issue the Death Certificate of Sri Puttaswamaiah S/o Late Narasimaiah, who is said to be dead on 14/09/1971. The said case is posted **on 14-01-2022,** awaiting objections from the public and awaiting notice of Respondents. Hence, the public are hereby requested for objections if any, failing which the case will be heard and determined.

Advocate for Petitioner :
Manjunath C G, Sridhar S.G., Advocate
Chinnakurchi, K G Halli Post, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South District, Bengaluru-560060.
Bangalore, Date: 01.01.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOST OF DOCUMENT

My Client **Mrs. REHANA BEGUM,** Aged about 57 Years, Wife of Mr. Sayeed Rahman, Residing at No.14, 8th Main, 4th Cross, 3rd Block East, Byrasandra, Jayanagar, Bangalore -560011, has lost her mother Deed i.e., original Sale Deed dated: 26-12-1979, bearing Document No. 5028/1979-80, of Book-1, Volume No.1391, at Pages 225-228, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, in respect of the Property bearing No. 216, BBMP Katha No. 62/61/59/216/60, Situated at Ilyas Nagar, Jaraganahalli, Presently Known as Yellachana- halli, Bangalore (formerly Corporation No.59/16, Situated at **C.M.C Pattagare, Jaraganahalli, Uttarahalli Hobli, Measuring East to West : 45 feet & North to South : 30 feet, Totally Measuring : 1350 Square feet,** if any person/s finds the same may be handed over to the following address

Sd/-
N.A. LAW ASSOCIATES
Office at No: 1/1, 10th Main, 13th Cross, Wilson Garden, Bangalore-560030.
(M) 9845276445
Email: pashancushad@yahoo.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that our client proposes to purchase the below described Schedule Property from its owner M/s MAANGALYA DEVELOPERS a Partnership Firm having its office at no. 92, Infantry Road, Kedia Arcade (basement), Bangalore - 560001 represented by its authorised signatory SRI. S. PADMANABHAN. Any person (s) / institutions / banks having any manner of right or claim over the Schedule Property may lodge their objections or claims in writing with all supporting documentary evidence with regard to such claims with the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen days hereof, failing which, our client will proceed to complete the transaction. Any objections/claims received thereafter will not be entertained /binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of land to an extent of 53,412 Sq. ft., of undivided share, rights and interest in the remaining two blocks in the project 'Maangalya Ashirwad' comprised in portion of property bearing V. P. katha no. 95, Later nos. 95/A & 95/B (forming portion of Sy no.7), BBMP katha no.2/82/95A/95B, situated at Bannerghatta Road, Basavanapura Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, in BBMP ward no.192, Bangalore. The total property is bounded as follows :

On the East by : Bannerghatta Road, West by : Remaining portion of Schedule 'A' Property in panchayath katha no.95 retained by Sellers, North by : Property in Sy no.9 & South by : Lands retained by Sri. K. S. Nagendra in Sy no.7 and land in Sy no.52 and road leading to weavers colony.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 31.12.2021

Lakshmi S, Advocate
For C.S.Vishwanath & Co.,
Nos. 519 & 520, III Floor, Prabhat Complex, K.G Road, Bangalore-560 009.
Ph: 080-41247862, 41224958, 41224597

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL,IPC. Division No.1, Kalaburgi.

No.EE/KNNL/IPCD-1/Glb/ SCP, TSP/PB-4 /2021-22/1701 Date: 30-12-2021

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Gandorinala and Lower Mullamari SCP, TSP Works For the year 2021-22, Percentage rate tender are invited by the under signed on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL Bengaluru from eligible KPWD Civil Class I, II & III and above contractors for the following work. Details as below.

1) No of works : **06,** 2) Amount put to tender Maximum and Minimum : Rs 7986733.41 to 698956.02, 3) EMD Amount put to tender Maximum and Minimum : Rs 79868.00 to 8737.00, 4) The bidder can access to the e-tender document in the website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. : 03.01.2022 at 11.00AM,** 5) Last date for submission of tender document through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. : **11.01.2022 Up to 4.00 PM,** 6) Date of opening of technical bid Part-I : **12.01.2022 At 4.15 PM,** 7) The Date of opening of Financial Bid Part-II : **14.01.2022 at 11.00 AM**

Further information can be had from the office of the under signed during office hours (Phone No 08472-220590) and visit website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in . All other terms and conditions as per original notification.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
KNNL IPC Division-1, GULBARGA

DIP/Kalaburagi/879/MC&A/2021-22

varthana — Varthana Finance Private Limited
(Formerly known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.,)

Registered Office at : No. 5BC-110, Varasiddhi, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com Phone: 080-68455777, Branch Office : Varasiddhi, 5BC-110, 3rd Floor, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore- 560043.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with Rule 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is here by given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Mortgagor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Varthana Finance Private Ltd, Bangalore, (Formerly known as Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd), will be sold on 10-02-2022 (Thursday) "As is Where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis, for recovery of below mentioned loan account. The details of the Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) Secured Assets/ Dues/ Reserve Price/ Auction date & time, EMD & Bid increase amount are mentioned below.

Name of The Borrower/Guarantor : 1. M/s. Navodaya Kishore Kendra, Represented By its Authorised Signatory, **2. M/s. Navodaya Education And Development Charitable Trust,** Represented By its Authorised Signatory, No. 1 and 2 are having office at No.101 And 102, Varadarajaswamy Layout, Singapura, Near M S Palya Circle, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore – 560097, **3. Sri. Eraiah Krishnappa, 4. Sri.Yashodamma K R,** No. 3 and 4 are residing at No. 1064, 7th Block, 8th Cross, H M T Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore North-560097, **Loan A/c. No. BLR08999S.**

Details of Total Outstanding Amount in Rupees : Rs.77,29,129/- (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand One Hundred Twenty Nine Only) as on 24-12-2021 together with future agreed contractual interest plus legal costs / charges, till realisation of entire amount.

Details of Immovable property : All that piece and parcel of property bearing Sy. No.1, Measuring 21 Gunta, Situated at Singapura Village, Yalahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluq and bounded as hereunder : East By : Property No.13,14 and 17 land belongs to Parvathi Poojar, South By : Property No. 19,20,21, 22 land belongs to Umesh, Prasanna and others, West By : 25 ft. Road and remaining portion of same Sy. No.01, North By : 25 ft Road and Sy. No.2 land.

The Reserve Price will be Rs.5,71,72,500/-and the earnest money deposit will be (EMD 10% of Reserve Price) Rs.57,17,250/.

Known encumbrances, if any : Nil.

Intending bidders should submit their EMD amount along with KYC documents (PAN Card and Aadhaar/Voters ID/Driving Licence) and Rs. 1,000/- being Non-refundable Tender fee at the Bangalore Office, at the above address, by way of Demand Draft/ Pay Order drawn on a Scheduled Bank, favouring "M/s. Varthana Finance Private Limited", payable at Bangalore before 5.00 p.m. on or before 09-02-2022 (Monday).

Date & Time of Inspection of the Property : From 01-02-2022 to 04-02-2022 from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. NOTE:- Interested Buyers should come personally with KYC or depute an authorized person with authority letter and KYC documents;

The Auction will be held at : Varthana Finance Pvt., Ltd., Varasiddhi, 5BC-110, 3rd Floor, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore- 560043 on 10-02-2022 (Thursday) between 12.00 noon to 3.00 p.m.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in Company's website i.e. : www.varthana.com

The prospective bidders may contact the Authorised Officer Mr. Lokesh – Phone No. 9886767620 and Mr. Manjunath – Phone No. 9980219262 for further details/information.

Date : 03-01-2022
Place : Bangalore

Authorised Officer
Varthana Finance Private Limited,

HINDUSTAN PHOTO FILMS MFG.CO.LTD.,
INDUNAGAR, OOTY - 643 005

Invites **TENDER** from reputed Agencies for carrying out Temporary works in HPF. Tender closing date : **25.01.2022.** Tender document fee **Rs.1,000/- EMD: Rs. 10,000/-**

For Tender Document Contact :

GENERAL TECHNICAL MANAGER & UNIT CHIEF I/C

Tel : **91 423 2443149**, Mobile : **9496661532**

Email : indu@hpfindia.com

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Jharkhand Central Railway Limited
(A JV of Central Coalfields Ltd. IRCON International Ltd. & Govt. of Jharkhand)

Registered Office: CCL, Darbhanga House, Ranchi Jharkhand, PIN-834029

APPOINTMENT NOTICE

Jharkhand Central Railway Limited (JCRL) is seeking candidates for the post of **1. Company Secretary, 2. Accountant and 3. Office Assistant** on Contract basis. The detailed advertisement can be downloaded from CCL's website i.e. www.centralcoalfields.in or can be collected from JCRL, HQ on working days. Last date of submission of application is 17.01.2022. For any further query please contact on following email id : ceojcrl2020@gmail.com.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, AURANGABAD
GARDEN & TREE AUTHORITY SECTION

Tel. No. (0240) 2333536-40 Fax. No. 0240-2331213	Address : Aurangabad Municipal Corporation, Aurangabad Head Office : - Town Hall, Aurangabad 431001 (Maharashtra) E-mail ID : uidssmt.amc@gmail.com
	No. AMC/Garden Section/672/2021 Date : 28/12/2021

Sr. No.	Work Name	Final Date of Tender Submission
01	New Construction of Street Dome Fountations At Various Places In City. Amount Put To Tender Rs. 2,24,80,600/-	Date : 21/01/2022 5:00 PM

Note :- Tender Notice is published on web site www.mahatenders.gov.in

जा.क्र./मनपा/उद्यान/678/2021
दि. 31/12/2021

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Aurangabad Municipal Corporation

PROCLAMATION FOR PERSON ABSCONDING
Section 82 Cr.P.Code

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE FIRST CLASS 'F' COURT AT PANAJI-GOA

I.P.C.No.: 245/2015/F

STATE ... Complainant

V/s

Yenappa Hundi ...Accused

WHEREAS complaint has been made before this Court that the **accused : Yenappa Hundi, S/o. Mayappa Hundi, Danappa Hundi, Mudebar, Karnataka** has committed or is suspected to have committed the offence of punishable **under section 379 r/w 511 of I.P.C.** and a warrant of arrest issued by this Court against him has been returned unexecuted and that the said **accused : Yenappa Hundi, S/o. Mayappa Hundi, Danappa Hundi, Mudebar, Karnataka,** cannot be found and where as it has been shown to my satifaction that the **accused : Yenappa Hundi, S/o. Mayappa Hundi, Danappa Hundi, Mudebar, Karnataka,** has absconded.

PROCLAMATION is hereby made that the said **accused : Yenappa Hundi, S/o. Mayappa Hundi, Danappa Hundi, Mudebar, Karnataka,** is required to appear before this Court on **07.01.2022 at 2.30 p.m.**

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 1st day of December.

Sd/- (Waseem Hussain Rizvi)

DI/ADVT/2022/1817 Judicial Magistrate First Class, 'F' Court, Panaji-Goa.

"Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

Government of Karnataka
Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Finance Department,
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

No.: FD 01 BMB 2021 Date: 30.12.2021

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)

1. **Aggregate Amount : Total Rs. 5000 Crore [Rs. 2000 Crore (10 Year Tenure), Rs. 2000 Crore (11 Year Tenure) and Rs. 1000 Crore (13 Year Tenure)]**
2. **Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort)**
3. **Date of auction : January 04, 2022**

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**

DIPR/DDU/67/MCA/21-22

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19. NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಆಫ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ
सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Central Bank of India

MALLESHWARAM BRANCH
"Jayam shoping Complex"
Between 7th & 8th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560003,
Phone : 080-23561847/ 080-23341760 / 9538893717,
Mail : bmbang0851@centralbank.co.in / bmbang0851@gmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Chief Manager & the Authorised Officer of the **CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, Malleshwaram Branch, Regional Office, Bangalore,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **20.04.2021** calling upon the Borrower : **Mr. S. Somashekar & Mrs. B Nethravathy** hereinafter referred to as the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.35,77,870.35/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Seventy Seven Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy and Thirty Five Paise Only)** as on **31.03.2021** plus interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act 2002 read with rule 8 of the said rules on this **Monday, December 27, 2021**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any one dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the **CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, for an amount Rs.35,77,870.35/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Seventy Seven Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy and Thirty Five Paise Only)** plus further interest and Charges thereon from **16.07.2020** less repayments made, if any.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Old No.31, Old City Corporation division No.36, Survey No.86/2, Situated at Audugodi Village, Begur Hobli, Khatha No.51/3, PID No.63-41-51/3 the area called as First Main Road, Audugodi, Bangalore BBMP Ward, #63, Lakkasandra, Measuring 1/2 of East to West : 40 feet, North to South on the Eastern side : 30 feet and Western Side 24 feet ie eastern Side north to South 30 feet Western Side North to South 27 feet and East to West : 18 feet (Total 513 Sft) with building thereon and bounded as follows : East : By Road, West : Property of S Vijayakumar, North : Road, South : Property bearing Site #32.

Date: 27.12.2021 **Sd/- Authorised Officer & Chief Manager**
Place : Bangalore **Central Bank of India**

International Financial Services Centres Authority
(A statutory authority established by Government of India)
2nd & 3rd Floor, Savvy Pragya,
Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, Gandhinagar
Gujarat-382355, India.
Tel: +91-79-61809800 Web: https://www.ifsca.gov.in/
Tender No.: IFSCA/IT/2021/001

Tender Notice for IT Service Provider for Supervisory Technology (SUPTECH) System of IFSCA

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), a statutory authority established by Government of India, invites online bids from IT Service Providers for design, development, implementation, operations and maintenance of **Supervisory Technology (SUPTECH) System** of IFSCA. Details about the RFP can be obtained from IFSCA's e-Procurement portal **(https:// ifsca.enivida.com).**

Cost of RFP document is INR 31,210 (including portal registration fees, tender document fee and tender processing fees) (non-refundable) payable through online payment modes. The RFP document can be purchased online from IFSCA's e-Procurement portal starting from **1100 hours of 27 December 2021 up till 1500 hours on 7 February 2022.** Pre-bid meeting for prospective bidders, will be held on **21 January 2022,** and the exact schedule and venue will be communicated to the prospective bidders who purchase the RFP. The last date and time for submission of bids is up to **1500 hours of 7 February 2022**. Earnest Money Deposit of **INR 5,00,00,000/-** (Five crore only) is required to be submitted along with the bid.

Deputy General Manager- IT
International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)

davp 15228/11/0006/2122

STATE BANK OF INDIA
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH(SARB), BENGALURU

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name: **Smt. Jayanthi A., Chief Manager**
e -mail Id: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in,
Mobile No: 9448993207
Land Line No. (Office): 080-25943663/64

Address of the Branch:
Building No.11/90, III Floor, Near Old Shivaji Theatre
J C Road, Bengaluru -560 002
Contact: CCO: **Mr. Chandrashekhar S.S.**
Mb : 9480811732, Tel:080-2594-3678/3663
e-mail Id: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in.

APPENDIX- IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8 (6)]
E-AUCTION ON 20.01.2022
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets (excluding movable assets, if any, lying in the premises) under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and the Borrowers/Mortgagors in particular that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, State Bank of India, Bengaluru, the actua lpossession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on **20.01.2022** for recovery of **Rs.84,05,245/- (Rupees Eighty Four Lakh Five Thousand Two Hundred Forty Five Only)** as on **31.12.2021** and further interest at contractual rate from **01.01.2022** with incidental expenses + costs, charges etc., due to the State Bank of India from Borrowers/Mortgagors, **(1) Smt. Uma Bhaskar W/o. Sri P Bhaskar** and **(2) Ms. Nerosha B, D/o. Sri Bhaskar P.**

The Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), bid increment amount and last date for submission of EMD along with KYC documents for immovable property to be sold will be as under:

Property No. 1	Reserve Price in Rs. (Below which properties will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Bid increment amount(Rs)	Date &Time of e-auction of proprty	Last date for Sub-mission of EMD along with KYC Documents
1	Rs.31,00,000/-	Rs.3,10,000/-	Rs.50,000/-	20.01.2022 11.30 A.M. to 12.30 P.M	On or before 19.01.2022 upto 4.00 p.m.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Tender No. SBI/SARB/CSS/679:

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing BBMP Khata No.347, Sy. No.1/07, carved out of converted land bearing Sy. No. 1/7 measuring 8 Guntas or 8712 Sq. Feet, converted from Agricultural purpose to Non-agricultural vide Official Memorandum bearing No.A.L.N.(E) SR (KH) 06/2013-14 dated 07.08.2013, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District, Bengaluru, situated at Sonnathamanahalli village @ Thambuchetty Palya, K R Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: East by: Sri J Balappa's Property, West by: Land of Sri M S Jacob, North by: Land of Sri Jayarama Reddy, South by: Road.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY: 312 Sq. ft. undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule 'A' above.

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY: Residential Flat bearing No.201 in Second Floor, measuring 1055 Sq. feet. Super Built up Area, containing Two Bed Rooms, with RCC Roofing, Vitrified Tiles Flooring and Aluminum Windows, together with One Covered Car Parking Space along with proportionate share in common areas such as Passages, Lobbies, Lift and Staircase contained in the multistoried building constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property known as **'S M SILVER OAK',** standing in the joint names of **Smt. Uma Bhaskar and Ms. Nerosha B** vide Sale Deed dated 18.03.2016 and registered as Document No.BNS-1-18849/2015-16 and CD No.BNSD420 at the Office of the Sub Registrar, Shivaji Nagar (Banasawadi), Bengaluru.

Reserve Price: Rs.31,00,000/- **EMD: Rs.3,10,000/-**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the links provided by the Secured Creditor, **State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, J. C. Road, Bengaluru,** represented by its Authorised Officer, i.e., (1) www.sbi.co.in (2) www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp

Date: 01.01.2022 Sd/-
Place: Bengaluru Authorized Officer

CAUTION NOTICE

This is to forewarn and caution the general public that the well-known university i.e. 'Manipal Academy of Higher Education Deemed University' which is being run under the aegis of 'Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)', which is an 'Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University' has no concern/nexus/association with the 'Manipal International School' (inaugurated by one T. Sudhakar Pai) at Chandapura, near Electronic City, Bengaluru.

The public is also hereby cautioned that the entity 'Manipal Academy of Health & Education (MAHE)', which appears to run the aforesaid 'Manipal International School', has no concern/nexus/association with 'Manipal Academy of Higher Education Deemed University' or 'Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)'.

'Manipal International School', which is without authorisation from us, is using marks/name 'Manipal Academy of Health & Education' and 'MAHE', seeking to ride upon the immense reputation and goodwill of 'Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)', which is a household name in the field of education in India and overseas.

In order to protect its immense reputation and goodwill, 'Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)', has already approached the Learned City Civil and Sessions Judge (Commercial Court), at Bengaluru, by way of a Commercial Suit. The Hon'ble Court has, by its order dated 21.02.2019, restrained, the aforesaid 'Manipal International School' and 'T. Sudhakar Pai' from "infringing the plaintiffs registered trademark by using identical trademark like "MAHE" or "MANIPAL GROUPS" in conjunction with any other words or monogram or logo as their trademark, service mark and advertisement for their services or business papers". By virtue of order dated 04.08.2021 passed by the Court, the order of restraint is in force till further orders.

The general public, in particular, parents, students and teachers are advised to be cautious/discerning and not mistakenly confuse the aforesaid 'Manipal Academy of Higher Education Deemed University' or 'Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)' with 'Manipal International School' or 'Manipal Academy of Health & Education (MAHE)'.

Any person/entity dealing with 'Manipal International School' or 'Manipal Academy of Health & Education (MAHE)' will do so at his/its own risk and 'Manipal Academy of Higher Education Deemed University' or 'Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)' will not be liable for any acts of 'Manipal International School' or 'Manipal Academy of Health & Education (MAHE)'.

Issued by:
Registrar,
Manipal Academy of Higher Education,
Madhav Nagar, Manipal, Karnataka - 576 104

website: www.manipal.edu
Phone no: 0820 2922 323

MUTHOOT HOUSING FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Registered Office: TC NO.14/2074-7, Muthoot Centre, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 034, Corporate Office: 12/A 01, 13th floor, Parinee Crescenzo, Plot No. C38 & C39, Bandra Kurla Complex-G block (East), Mumbai-400051

DEMAND NOTICE
Notice Under Section 13 (2) of The Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas the undersigned is the Authorised officer of Muthoot Housing Finance Company Ltd. under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, 1calling upon the following Borrower, Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notices within 60 days from the date of respective Notices issued to them that are also given below connection with above, Notices hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower, Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor to pay to MHFCL within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amount mentioned herein below together with further interest @ 18% p.a. as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the date(s) mentioned below till date of payment and / or realization, payable under the loan Agreement read with other documents / writing if any, executed by the said borrowers(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset (s) have been mortgaged to MHFCL by the said Borrower Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) respectively.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand notice	Total Outstanding Amount	Description of Secured Asset(s) / Immovable Property (ies)
1	LAN No. 11106079071 A Shashi Kumar Twinkle Sophia	10-Dec-2021	Rs. 506,470.15/- As on 30-Nov-2021	55 16Th Cross,Near Govermnent School Kanshiram Nagar, Vidya Ranyapura Bangalore,North Bangalore, Bangalore,Karnataka,Bangalore,560097,India
2	LAN No. 11106086473 Nandeeswaran Moorthi Elavarasi	10-Dec-2021	Rs. 2,968,859.34/- As on 30-Nov-2021	145,53,Kammagonda Halli Yeshwanthpuram, Karnataka,Bangalore,560015,India
3	LAN No. 11106101457 Nagaraj, Deepa D P	10-Dec-2021	Rs. 841,618.00/- As on 30-Nov-2021	Site No:43,Katha No:219,Devanagodi Village Hoskote Hubli Bangalore, Karnataka,Bangalore,560067,India

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to MHFCL as aforesaid, MHFCL shall proceed against above secured Assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, Entirely at the risks of said Borrower, Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) as to cost and consequences.

The said Borrower, Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s), whether by way of sale, lease or contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Place: Bangalore, Date: 03.01.2022 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Muthoot Housing Finance Company Limited**

KARNATAKA GRAMIN BANK
(A Scheduled Bank owned by Government of India; Sponsored by : Canara Bank)
Regional Office, Bengaluru – 560072 Karnataka (**R & L Section)**
Ph: 080-23186095,23217079 : Email: br2504@kgbk.in
221, Manju mansions, 6th block, 2nd stage, 80 feet ring road,
Opp BWSSB Office, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore-560 072

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 (HEREIN AFTER CALLED THE 'ACT')

At the request, Bank, has extended credit facility to the below mentioned individuals against secured assets through its Branch as under. The relevant particulars of the property on which you have created security interest by execution of security agreement / documents & creation of mortgage by way of deposit of the title deeds are also furnished hereunder. As the operation and conduct of the financial assistance/credit facilities have become irregular the debt has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guideliness issued by Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by the borrower in repayment of the principal debt and interest thereon. As the demand notice dated as mentioned below sent by register AD calling upon you, was unserved/ not ackonwledged, this notice is now issued.

MUGABALA BRANCH
SI NO: 1) Name & Address of the Borrowers: 1) Sri.Venkataramanappa s/o Thimmarayappa, (Borrower & Mortgager) 2) Sri. Munikrishna s/o Venkataramanappa, (Mortgager) Both are R/at Appasandra, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District – 562114. **3. Sri.C.Manjunatha s/o Chikkakallappa (Guarantor),** R/at Doddalenahalli, Doddanallala Post, Bengaluru Rural District - 562114.
Liability: Rs.4,25,501/- (Rupees Four lakh Twenty Five thousand Five hundred & One only) as on **30.09.2021,** and interest from 01.10.2021. and incidental expenses and costs.
NPA Date : 28.08.2019 **Demand Notice Date: 18.10.2021**
Description of the Immovable Property: 1) All that part and parcel of the Immovable property having Janjar No.78, Khaneshumari No.18, Property Measuring E to W: 21 Ft, N to S : 12 Ft, situated at Appasandra, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Bounded on: **East by :** Road, **West by :** Vacant Land, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Govt Kalave . **2)** All that part and parcel of the Immovable property having Janjar No.121, Property No.21, Property Measuring E to W: 71 Ft, N to S : 43 Ft, situated at Appasandra, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Bounded on: **East by :** Sampangiramaiah, **West by :** Annayappa, **North by :** Vacant Land, **South by :** Road. Both the Properties are held in the name of **Sri.Venkataramanappa s/o Thimmarayappa**

MUGABALA BRANCH
SI NO: 2) Name & Address of the Borrowers: 1) Smt.Shanthamma w/o Rajappa, R/at Halasinakayipura Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562114, **2) Sri. Shivashankar B s/o Balappa (Guarantor),** R/at Mugabala (Village & Post), Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562114.
Liability: Rs.1,53,771/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Three thousand Seven hundred & seventy One only) as on **30.09.2021,** and interest from 01.10.2021. and incidental expenses and costs.
NPA Date : 04.10.2021 **Demand Notice Date: 18.10.2021**
Description of the Immovable Property: All that part and parcel of the Immovable property having Gramatana Property bearing Serial No.1, Junjer No.7, Property No.1, Khatha No.1/1, Property Measuring E to W : 40 Ft, N to S : 30 Ft, situated at Halasinkayipura Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Property is held in the name of **Smt. Shanthamma w/o Rajappa** Bounded on: **East by :** Dasappa's House, **West by :** Papaiah's House, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Temple/Devasthana.

MUGABALA BRANCH
SI NO: 3) Name & Address of the Borrowers: 1) Sri. Munishamappa s/o Dyavappa, (Borrower & Mortgager) 2) Sri.Shankarappa s/o Munishamappa (Borrower & Mortgager), 3) Smt. Basamma w/o Munishamappa, (Mortgager), 4) Sri. Basavaraju s/o Munishamappa (Mortgager), All are R/at Doddanallala, Hoskote Taluk - 562114.
Liability: Rs.33,98,245/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh ninety eight thousand two hundred forty five only) as on **04.08.2021,** and interest from 05.08.2021. and incidental expenses and costs.
NPA Date : 28.08.2019 **Demand Notice Date: 01.09.2021**
Description of the Immovable Property: 1) All that part and parcel of the Immovable property having Junjar No.23, Property No.91/A, Property Measuring E to W: 50 Ft, N to S: 58 Ft, situated at Doddanallala Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Bounded on: **East by :** Vacant Site, **West by :** Govt Road, **North by :** Jayamma, **South by :** Vacant Site. **2)** All that part and parcel of the Immovable property having Sy.No.88, Property Measuring 3 Acres, situated at Doddanallala Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Bounded on: **East by :** Gopalappa, **West by :** Basappa, **North by :** Basappa, **South by :** Govt Road.
Both the Properties are held in the name of **Sri.Munishamappa s/o Dyavappa**

YELAHANKA BRANCH,
SI NO: 4) Name & Address of the Borrowers: 1) Sri. Ameer Jan s/o Mohammed Haneef Saab, R/at No.67, 3rd cross, Venkatala, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064. **2) Sri. Bhaskarachar s/o Late Veerabhadrachar (Guarantor),** R/at Down Bazar Street, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064.
Liability: to **Rs. 1,36,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Six Thousand only)** as on **04.11.2021,** and interest from 01.11.2021 along with incidental expenses and costs.
NPA Date : 28.10.2021 **Demand Notice Date: 19.11.2021**
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the Immovable property having Site No.76, Khatha No.77/1 & 76/1, Khaneshumari No.77 (Old), Property Measuring 875 Sq Ft, Situated at Venkatala Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. Property is held in the name of **Sri. Ameer Jan s/o Mohammed Haneef sab,** Bounded on : **East :** Remaining property of same No, **West :** Muneerappa's property, **North :** Govt Road, **South:** Lakshmamma's property.

RAJANUKUNTE BRANCH
SI NO: 5) Name & Address of the Borrowers: 1) Smt. Sujatha @ Sujathamma w/o Krishnamurthy, 2) Sri.S.K.Ashok s/o Krishnamurthy, 3) Sri.S.K.Sundresh s/o Krishnamurthy, All are R/at No.253, Varuna Nilaya, 3rd cross, Kuvempu Road, Rajanukunte Bengaluru-560064. **4) Sri. Venu s/o Krishnappa (Guarantor for OD)** R/at c/o Chowdeshwari selections, Rajanukunte, Bengaluru-560064.
Liability: to **Rs.8,88,138/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand One Hundred Thirty Eight only)** as on **30.10.2021** and interest from 01.11.2021 **for the A/C No.42199102003614 and Rs.2,25,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty five Thousand only)** as on **30.10.2021** and interest from 01.11.2021 **for the A/C No.12199120000003,** together with incidental expenses and costs.
NPA Date : 28.09.2021 for A/c No.42199102003614 & for A/c No.12199120000003
Demand Notice Date: 19-11-2021
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the Immovable Property having Site No.253, Khatha No.4/1 Panchayath No.282/275/275, Property Measuring E-W: 30 Ft N-S: 42 Ft, Situated at Rajanukunte, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Property is held in the name of **Smt. Sujatha @ Sujathamma w/o Krishnamurthy**, Bounded on : **East :** Property sold by Nanjundappa, **West :** Property sold by Nanjundappa, **North :** Property sold by Nanjundappa, **South:** Road.

MALLATHAHALLI BRANCH
SI NO: 6) Name & Address of the Borrowers: 1) M/s. Chamundeshwari Tours & Travels (Prop: Sri.Manje Gowda s/o Puttegowda), R/at Alankar Plaza, Shop No.45 & 46, Sy.No.78/2, Subbaraju Layout, Kothanuru Main Road, J P Nagar 8th phase, Bengaluru - 560078.
2) Sri. Narasegowda M D s/o Dase Gowda (Guarantor & Mortgager) R/at No.164, Paduvattamma Road, Jatti Beedi, Nazarbad, Mysuru - 570010.
Liability: to **Rs.18,47,632/- (Rupees Eighteen lakh Forty Seven thousand Six Hundred and Thirty Two only)** as on **30.10.2021 and** interest from **01.11.2021 for the A/c No. 12209130000126**, and **Rs.28,64,366/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Three Hundred & Sixty Six Only) as on 24.09.2021 and interest from 27.03.2021 for the A/c No. 42209110004520**, together with incidental expenses and costs.
NPA Date : 29.09.2021 for the A/c Nos. 12209130000126 & 42209110004520,
Demand Notice Date: 19.11.2021
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the Immovable property having Residential House property No.9 (Old No.165), Property Measuring E to W: 34.3/4 Ft, N to S : 26 Ft, situated at Mysuru City, Nazarbad Mohalla & Jetty Street, Property is held in the name of **Sri.Narasegowda M D s/o Dase Gowda** Bounded on: **East by :** Property No.175, **West by :** Paduvattamma Galli, **North by :** Property No.164, **South by :** Property No.156.

HENNAGARA BRANCH
SI NO: 7) Name & Address of the Borrowers: 1. Smt.Sakamma w/o Late Gundappa, 2. Sri.Muniraju s/o Late Gundappa, 3. Sri.Muniswamy s/o Late Gundappa, 4. Sri. H.G.Shankar s/o Late Gundappa (Guarantor) All are R/at H.Hosahalli, Hennagara post, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru - 562106
Liability: to **Rs.1,57,249/- (Rupees One lakh fifty seven thousand two hundred and forty nine only) as on 16.08.2021 and interest from 17.08.2021**, together with incidental expenses and costs.
NPA Date : 14.06.2021, **Demand Notice Date: 01.09.2021**
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the Immovable property having Janjur No.37, Property No.27/21/1, Property Measuring E to W: 37 Ft, N to S : 25 Ft, situated at H. Hosahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District now comes under the jurisdiction of Hennagara Grama Panchayath, Anekal Taluk, Property is held in the name of **Smt.Sakamma w/o Late Gundappa** Bounded on: **East by :** Road, **West by :** Remaining property of Sy.No.37, **North by :** House of Gundappa, **South by :** House of Veeranna.

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13. you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law.

Date: 01.01.2022 **Sd/-Authorised Officer, Karnataka Gramin Bank,**
Place: Bangalore **Regional Office, Bangalore**

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QuoteExpress **BE KIND WHENEVER POSSIBLE. IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE** › DALAI LAMA

EDITORIAL

> "Lowly ones hope to enjoy carnal pleasures ... They build a facade of illusion and always worry about the next act. They live in a frail shell-like body and never realise it will give way
>
> Tondaradipodi Azhwar

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

END CHARADE OF NIGHT CURFEWS TO COMBAT COVID

Now that someone as accomplished as Soumya Swaminathan, chief scientist at the WHO, has trashed imposing night-time curfew to slow down the Covid pandemic, policymakers ought to revisit their strategies. "Things like night curfew, there is no science behind it. One has to take evidence-based measures," she recently said. Such curbs can possibly be justified in cities with a throbbing nightlife like Mumbai. They also served to empty beaches and places where people normally gather at the midnight hour to usher in the New Year, as the highly contagious droplets of the Omicron variant find easy hosts in congregations. But elsewhere it made little sense other than creating the impression of a partial lockdown while not affecting the economy or normal life. The psy-ops conjured up the smokescreen of the executive erecting its first barriers against the invisible parasite while doing nothing in real terms. It also gave the police a free pass to harass late diners and throttle the already hobbled leisure sector. The problem with such partial lockdowns is they are mindlessly imposed across the globe with little scientific reasoning. There are some theories that suggest the Covid droplets may not survive night-time temperatures in winter but they have not been conclusively established.

The bigger problem, of course, is that such myopic directives give netas the licence to nonchalantly hold big election rallies before sundown. All Covid protocols of masking, public distancing and frequent sanitising of hands are completely ignored, what with the leaders on the dais, too, failing to lead by example of putting on masks. It happened during the first wave in Bihar and the second wave in Bengal and elsewhere. The template is being repeated now, when the third wave has just about begun.

The EC's ability to play neutral umpire would be shortly tested when it imposes the model code of conduct in five states that are due to go to polls around February. Its barks during the second wave without any follow-up bite left it with a bloody nose. The EC cannot afford to slip up this time around. As for night curfew, let's not fool ourselves. It's time to end the charade.

AUSTERITY IS NOT THE WAY FORWARD

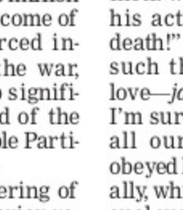
The Centre's reluctance to spend at a time when the economy is still trying to emerge from the shock of Covid-19 is baffling. The numbers belie the tall claims of massive infrastructure spending to boost the economy. In the first eight months (April-November 2021) of the financial year, the government has spent less than 50% of its budgeted capital expenditure of ₹5.54 lakh crore. Neither has it gone overboard with its revenue expenditures—the cost of running the government, which includes money spent on salaries, pensions, subsidies and grants to states. The Centre has so far used 61.5% of the revenue expenditure budget (compared to 63.3% previous year).

Not that the government has been short of money—revenue collections have been splendid thanks to the RBI's largesse of ₹99,000 crore and gross tax collections surged by 50% during the first eight months. Yet, it continues with its frugal ways. Why is the Centre then keeping a tight leash on its expenses? Is it worried about the further worsening of the fiscal situation or are there other reasons? Despite the fiscal deficit being 46% of the budgeted target of ₹15 lakh crore, many analysts believe the government may yet exceed the target by ₹30,000–40,000 crore given little likelihood of it being able to rake in ₹1.75 lakh crore through disinvestment (its budget target) and slowing down of tax collection growth in the fourth quarter. There's another view that the Centre's devolution to states from its tax pool has increased lately (doubling in November to ₹95,000 crore), leaving little in its hand. Of course, there are additional expenses (for fertiliser subsidy, export incentives, MNREGA and Air India's debt repayment) of ₹3 lakh crore that it has now accounted for.

No matter what the reason is, the government should not hide behind the excuse of fiscal considerations to keep a tight control over spending at a time when the economy needs its full support to get back to normalcy. It should not repeat the mistakes of many European countries that embraced austerity measures after the financial crises in 2008 and 2011. The self-imposed, and in some cases forced, austerity delayed the economic revival and even harmed the economies in the long run.

As 2022 begins, we should reflect on the year gone by, in the tradition of Nachiketa in *Katha Upanishad*. This ancient story may help us better understand the loss of loved ones

'O DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING?'—LESSONS FROM THE PANDEMIC



MAKARAND R PARANJAPE

Professor of English at JNU

SOUMYADIP SINHA

2021 was, in many ways, a terrible year. The Covid-19 pandemic, even as I write this, has infected nearly 290 million people across the world, killing close to 5.5 million. That is the official number. The real figure is probably much higher. Given that each human life is precious, this is a devastating toll indeed. But it is important to put things in perspective. The number of dead and wounded in World War I is estimated to exceed 40 million. If we add the deaths by the so-called Spanish Flu, an influenza epidemic that struck the world, the casualties go up by another 50 million or so.

When it comes to World War II, the fatalities are easily double that of World War I. In addition, the horrors of the Holocaust, the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the terrible Bengal famine, which claimed 2–3 million lives and was a direct outcome of imperial Britain's enforced involvement of India in the war, make the numbers go up significantly. Soon after the end of the war in 1945 was the terrible Partition of the subcontinent.

Then the colossal suffering of Stalin's and Mao's totalitarian repression, which resulted in many more millions of deaths. All told, the 20th century was easily the most violent and brutal known to human civilisation. We must also not forget that the world population then was around 2.3 billion. Which means that up to 10% of the humans on the planet perished from war or unnatural causes bang in the middle of twentieth century.

The last century was worse than this one, though we are still only in its second decade. Looking back can give us a better sense of the scale of human suffering and tragedy that we have recently faced. By that token, we are doing much better today. Though our world is quite confused and divided, not only into camps and alliances, there is also sufficient evidence of cooperation, even collaboration, in the midst of conflict or competition. In fact, the pandemic had illustrated the former in ample measure.

That is why as 2022 begins, we should reflect on the year gone by, quite in the tradition of Nachiketa in the *Katha Upanishad*, the youth who was sent to the house of death by his father. This ancient story may help us better understand the death of loved ones in 2021 by making our peace with our losses. What is more, such a reflection can teach us to hope, prepare and work for a better tomorrow.

The father had rashly told Nachiketa when the latter questioned his actions, "Go! I give thee to death!" Unfortunately, we still say such things today to those we love—*jao, maro, jo karna hai karo*! I'm sure there are equivalents in all our languages. The youth obeyed his father's command literally, which must have been so unusual even in those days. The father, too, was full of regret. Nachiketa left his father's home and knocked on Death's door.

Death, it is said, was away in the world, busy as usual. Yes, even in those ancient times, Death was very, very active. Then what to say of corona-*kaal*? Remember all the burning pyres and floating dead bodies during the devastating second wave right here in India? But the young man, Nachiketa, was very wise and brave. He waited patiently for Death to come back.

For three days and three nights he waited, without drink or food. When Death returned from his errands, he felt mortified. After all, he was Yamaraj, the embodiment of Dharma. As the great equaliser, he not only was impartial and fair, but also had impeccable manners. He said to himself, "This noble youth has come to my door before his time. Moreover, I have kept him waiting at my door, without food or water for three days, hoping that he would return to the world of the living. But seeing how persistent he is, I must make amends."

Turning to Nachiketa, "Ask," he said, magnanimously, "for any boon and it shall be granted to thee." Death thought Nachiketa would ask for the most obvious thing. Life. But the young man said, "O Death, I do not desire life. I have come to learn from you the secret of secrets. I want to realise that Truth knowing which all can be free forever from this round of birth and death."

Death was taken aback. "So young and yet so pure, so wise," he wondered. "No, dear youth, ask me for something else—anything else. Ask me for riches, power and glory, for gold and girls, for chariots and palaces, kingdoms and empires. Ask me for the overlordship of the Earth."

"No," said the youth, whose face shone with the light of truth and austerity, "Tempt me not, O Death. Having seen thy face, what use have I of gold and girls, or chariots and palaces, of the things of this Earth. For I know that all these belong only to you, O Death. Teach me, instead, that which will overcome sorrow and death. Teach me the secret of everlasting life."

> Today, only the story of the young man remains, its secret muffled in the folds of antiquity. But we who have faced Death or his shadow must learn to live as if each action of ours is consecrated, as if everything we do counts—as much as if it were our last day on earth. ... We must not yield to despondency or despair. Our destiny is magnificent, grander than what any of us has imagined

Similarly, having seen the very dire and dread face of death, we cannot be expected to waste our time on trivialities. At once, we must focus our attention on what is of utmost consequence. And it is this. We should be proud to belong to the race of Earthlings. We are creatures of the soil of this planet, terrestrial and Earth-bound.

This Earth is our home. We are born here and die here. This is our only habitat, our holy ground. Let's tread gently on it. Let us not destroy this beautiful, green planet, this mother of all life. From the creatures of the deep to those airborne, the Earth and her atmosphere sustains us all. So let us cherish and protect this Earth, our mother.

Secondly, let us remember that to have lived as human beings has been a great privilege. Though our life is short and full of hardships, we have the opportunities to choose the right things. As a species, we can participate in and co-create our world. Not just as passive spectators of the cosmic game of dice, but as active participants. We are not merely Nature's creatures but can be the masters of our destiny.

Unfortunately, we have used our powers mostly to destroy or dominate one another, to establish our supremacy over non-human species and over inanimate nature. This is a mistake. We need to pool our energies so that the damage of centuries can be reversed. We need to work together and not against each other. We need to move towards global government and the management of our shared planetary resources.

Some things are too important to be left to states and governments. We, the people of the world, need to reflect upon them and to act. The time is now. If you ask me how, I will say our collective will can create the requisite energy to bring about transformation. Trust and not suspicion is what is required today. We have spent many decades, even centuries, resisting and fighting.

Finally, we must not yield to despondency or despair. Our destiny is magnificent, grander than what any of us has imagined. We are creatures of light, love and perfection. We must stop at nothing short of what we are really capable of at our best.

The human story, despite its untold tragedies and sufferings, is one great experiment in which all of us are involved. There is a providence that shapes our ends and an intelligence that guides our endeavours.

Nachiketa, the young man in the *Katha Upanishad*, was taught a sacred rite by Death himself. Today, only the story remains, its secret muffled in the folds of antiquity. But we who have faced Death or his shadow must learn to live as if each action of ours is consecrated, as if everything we do counts—as much as if it were our last day on earth.

We must all strive together to bring about a consciousness revolution that will make this world of ours a better place for us all. This, much more than a credo of personal transformation, can actually be the prelude and precondition of global change.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

WOMEN COMMANDOS BOOST FOR PROTECTION OF VIPs

K V MADHUSUDHANAN

Former IG of CRPF, the author had a long tenure in the Special Protection Group (SPG)

On 21 May 1991, the precious life of a promising young leader could have been saved had the security agencies involved in the arrangements strictly implemented access control. That the last minute line-up at the alighting point near the Sriperumbudur public meeting dais could be compromised and the assassin could sneak in and succeed in her mission was the mother of all lapses on that fateful day.

Some experts attributed the non-neutralisation of the threat to withdrawal of Special Protection Group cover from the then former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi (as per unamended provisions of the SPG Act). I would moderate that and say the rigidity and no-nonsense style of the SPG's implementation of the security drill could have averted the tragedy that day. But any security agency practicing or rather allowed to practise that professionalism would have done the job.

The fact to be borne in mind is that the adversaries have the time. They can wait, try, fail and strike again. My stress is on being ever alert. It is just not one day, one journey or one public meeting. The rut of routine is the deadliest trap a complacent security man or any cog in the chain can fall into at unimaginable cost. A changeover or rotation of personnel periodically will have to be ensured to tackle this. The induction of fresh hands without lowering the benchmark is possible only by expanding the pool. So why should we shy away from picking up the best of women commandos?

Rightly, the Narendra Modi government has decided to draft women commandos of the CRPF for VIP security. That selected commandos are going to be deployed only after an orientation course is reassuring. A commando is a commando in mental and physical toughness, be it male or female. The golden principles of dignitary protection such as body cover, access control, technical checks/ sanitisation, etc., call for honing of several other skills. Hence there is no reason to conclude that women commandos would be unequal to the task. I have personally observed Mahila CRPF personnel doing as well as men in ensuring security drills in the SPG.

> The rut of routine is the deadliest trap a complacent security person can fall into at unimaginable cost. A rotation of personnel periodically will help tackle this. The induction of fresh hands without lowering the benchmark is possible only by expanding the pool

With the prospects of more female leaders being classified into higher categories of security, based on threat perception and more representation of women in the political leadership of the country, this decision has not come a day too soon. With gender equality being universally applied, women are claiming increased participation in all walks of life as a matter of right. Their considerable presence in the structure of adversaries is also to be reckoned with.

Now when it comes to tasking with pioneering assignments, the government cannot think of a more versatile and seasoned force than the CRPF. It had raised peacekeeping elements to deal with natural calamities, the genesis of what today is known as the NDRF. Then came their foray into VVIP Security.

The Special Duty Group (SDG) was raised in the CRPF to complement the SPG. The raising of the first Mahila Battalion in the country was done in the CRPF in 1986. Now there are six such battalions in the CRPF.

By 2010, ten battalions of commandos (CoBRA Bns) were readied by the CRPF. The Parliament Duty Group (PDG) also has been raised in the CRPF. Naturally this path-breaking role also would be successfully carried out by this Force, nearly disbanded in the wake of Independence but for the vision of Sardar Patel.

Coming back to women commandos, we have some of the best in every Force/Service. Should we deny them the opportunity to make use of their potential—for public good—just because of gender or biological differences? Then, there are nuances like the comfort level of women dignitaries vis-a-vis women commandos who can perform uninhibited security drills in the event of operational contingencies, including medical emergencies. The best out of these commandos chosen and trained without lowering the benchmark would definitely do very well and strive to prove themselves in the new role assigned to them.

(madhukappuva@yahoo.co.in)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Be always ready for rains

The TN government cannot hide behind the alleged failure of the IMD for the shoddy handling of the rains last week by the civic administration. Rainfall predictions may suffer from both false positives and false negatives. But the civic administration needs to be ever-ready. After all, timely monsoons didn't make the government take adequate measures for relief and rehabilitation.
Ramkumar Narayan, email

Disrespectful to taxpayers

The Centre may have its own valid reasons for refusing to extend the I-T filing due date beyond 31 December 2021. But to dispute the existence of glitches in the new I-T portal right from day one of its launch is ridiculous. In every audit office, all staff members have been facing difficulties in filing I-T returns of almost all clients. The government not accepting this fault is disrespectful to taxpayers.
S Ramalingam, Chennai

Focus on vital issues

This is with reference to *History cannot be erased by renaming public moments* (Jan 1). Renaming public roads, cardinal places, government establishments, etc., are generally done by politicos at the helm, apparently to protect political/religious interests. Cities like Trivandrum have been renamed to Thiruvananthapuram, Allahabad to Prayagraj, etc. There are myriad vital issues that need to be tackled, so why focus so much attention on such topics?
Thomas K M, Muvattupuzha

Renaming not prudent

Jinnah was, of course, one of the prominent freedom fighters under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. His intention to divide India and get a separate Muslim state was a later development, after which he became unpopular among Indians. As the editorial has rightly said, the monument stands testimony to history and renaming it may not be prudent.
Ravi Varma Raja E, Ennakkad

What is his relevance?

The editorial highlighted the ruthless vote-catching tactics of parties. BJP leader Somu Veerraju's appeal to people to cast votes in the party's favour by promising to provide cheap liquor is abhorrent. But the renaming of the historical Jinnah tower in Guntur cannot be equated to this. Jinnah seems to have become something of a non-entity in his own country of creation, Pakistan. What relevance would he have in India then, apart from being known as the one who divided us on religious lines?
K R Parvathy, Mysuru

Stop international flights

As the new Omicron variant has shown a surge in India, it is better that the Centre stop all international incoming and outgoing flights as a precautionary measure to prevent its spread in the nation. We must be alert this time and not repeat previous mistakes.
T Kailash Ditya, Hyderabad

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
Communal hatred of women will stop only when we all stand in one voice against it. Year has changed, situation also changed - now we have to speak!

Piyush Goyal @PiyushGoyal
The role of governments is like that of a guardian. Promote even if you have the ability and do not postpone it by saying that boys make mistakes

Derek O'Brien @derekobrienmp
Since 2021, my assigned seat in Rajya Sabha has India's only two former living Indian Prime Ministers on either side. Two most polite men in #Parliament

NC objects to 4 points in delimitation draft

Party says proposed seat allocation for J&K Assembly defies logic, can't be implemented because matter is in SC

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

NATIONAL Conference (NC) has submitted a list of four objections to the Delimitation Commission on its draft proposing six additional Assembly seats to the Jammu region and only one to Kashmir.

NC MP, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi told this newspaper on Sunday that the party submitted its objections to the Delimitation Commission on December 31.

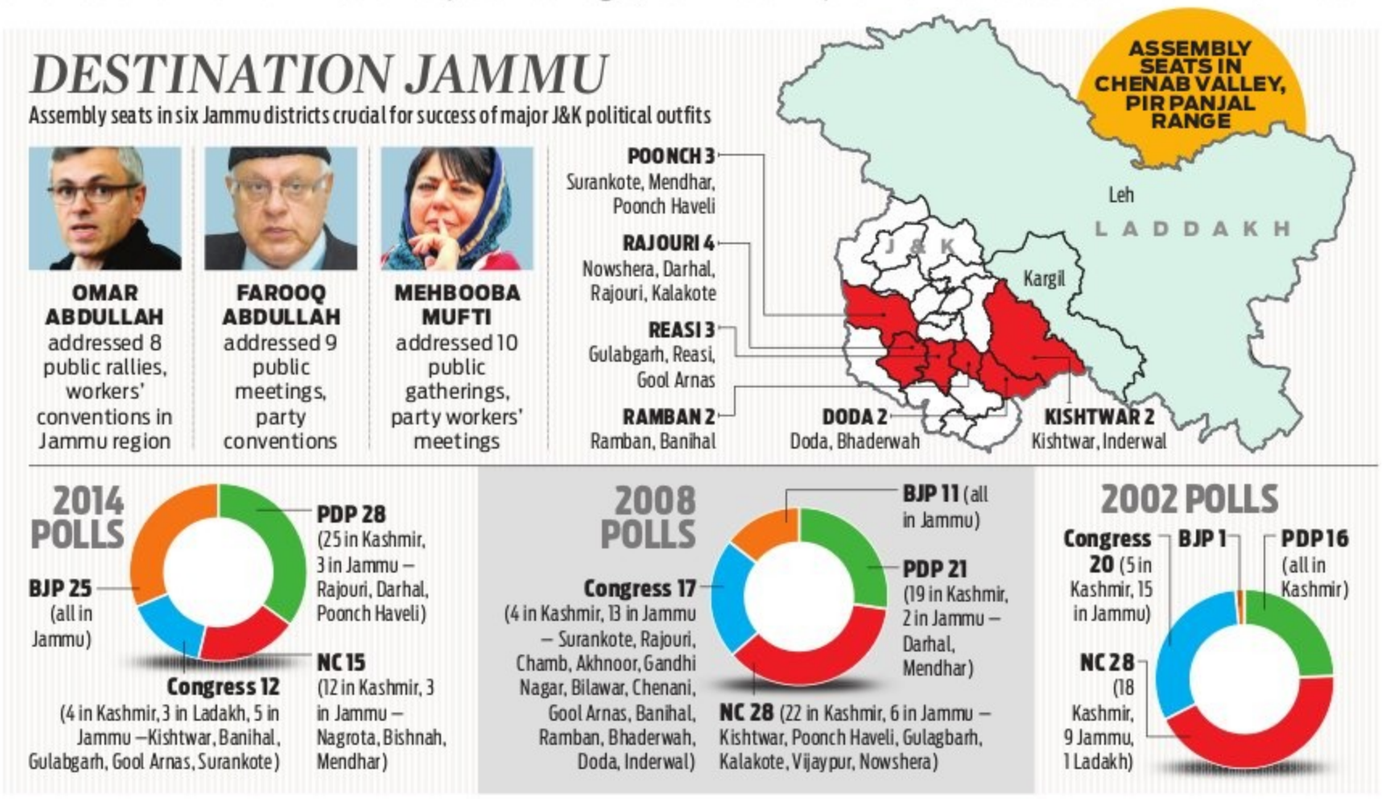
The Delimitation Commission has in its draft proposed six additional seats for the Jammu region and only one for Kashmir. If the suggestions figure in the final report, in the 90-member J&K Assembly, Kashmir's seats will rise from 46 to 47, while in the Jammu region, number of seats will increase from 37 to 43.

Masoodi said: "The delimitation exercise can't go ahead, as the law under which the exercise is proceeding is being questioned and examined by the Supreme Court to find whether it is constitutional or not. In the entire country, the delimitation is to take place after 2031 after figures of the 2026 census are available. You went ahead with elections in Assam and elsewhere without delimitation, so why is J&K being singled out."

Masoodi said in their second point, the party mentioned that the Delimitation Commission justified the exercise saying it is being carried out under the J&K Reorganisation Act which is a constitutionally suspect law, which has increased seats of the Assembly, and they have to find and locate the seats. But in Reorganisation Act of Andhra Pradesh, two states AP and Telangana were created and in both the states, elections were held without any delimitation," the NC MP said.

Masoodi added: "Population is the first and foremost consideration for delimitation. We go for delimitation because we anticipate that there is an increase in population and we want to give representation to the increased population as well. But here in this draft, it has not been respected."

He said they felt the factors have been applied selectively. "In case of 915 sq kms of Samba district, you have three seats while in twice the area in Ganderbal in central Kashmir, there are only two seats and in Kulgam, which has three times the area of Samba, there are only three seats."


DESTINATION JAMMU
Assembly seats in six Jammu districts crucial for success of major J&K political outfits
OMAR ABDULLAH addressed 8 public rallies, workers' conventions in Jammu region
FAROOQ ABDULLAH addressed 9 public meetings, party conventions
MEHBOOBA MUFTI addressed 10 public gatherings, party workers' meetings
2014 POLLS
BJP 25 (all in Jammu)
PDP 28 (25 in Kashmir, 3 in Jammu – Rajouri, Darhal, Poonch Haveli)
NC 15 (12 in Kashmir, 3 in Jammu – Nagrota, Bishnah, Mendhar)
Congress 12 (4 in Kashmir, 3 in Ladakh, 5 in Jammu –Kishtwar, Banihal, Gulabgarh, Gool Arnas, Surankote)
2008 POLLS
Congress 17 (4 in Kashmir, 13 in Jammu – Surankote, Rajouri, Chamb, Akhnoor, Gandhi Nagar, Bilawar, Chenani, Gool Arnas, Banihal, Ramban, Bhaderwah, Doda, Inderwal)
BJP 11 (all in Jammu)
PDP 21 (19 in Kashmir, 2 in Jammu – Darhal, Mendhar)
NC 28 (22 in Kashmir, 6 in Jammu – Kishtwar, Poonch Haveli, Gulagbarh, Kalakote, Vijaypur, Nowshera)
2002 POLLS
Congress 20 (5 in Kashmir, 15 in Jammu)
BJP 1
PDP 16 (all in Kashmir)
NC 28 (18 Kashmir, 9 Jammu, 1 Ladakh)
POONCH 3 Surankote, Mendhar, Poonch Haveli
RAJOURI 4 Nowshera, Darhal, Rajouri, Kalakote
REASI 3 Gulabgarh, Reasi, Gool Arnas
RAMBAN 2 Ramban, Banihal
DODA 2 Doda, Bhaderwah
KISHTWAR 2 Kishtwar, Inderwal
ASSEMBLY SEATS IN CHENAB VALLEY, PIR PANJAL RANGE
Leh
LADDAKH
J&K
Kargil

KASHMIR PARTIES' JAMMU OUTREACH

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

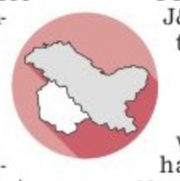
AHEAD of the Delimitation Commission's draft proposal suggesting six additional Assembly seats for Jammu and only one for the Valley, Kashmir-based parties, especially National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad have gone on a political offensive in Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal range of Jammu to garner support for their narrative, especially on restoration of Article 370.

A Jammu-based political leader said people of Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal always found themselves closer to Kashmir than Jammu. "Kashmir-based parties, especially NC and PDP, never treated us as their own. But post Article 370 revocation and especially after Delimitation Commission's proposal, they seem to have realised the importance of the region," he said.

Parties are seeking to keep their support base intact in six districts — Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Reasi, Rajouri and Poonch — of Jammu region.

Of the six additional seats proposed by Delimitation Commission in Jammu region, one each would be allotted to the districts of Kishtwar, Samba, Kathua, Doda, Rajouri and Udhampur/Reasi. The proposed additional seat in the Valley would be added to Kupwara district in north Kashmir.

In erstwhile J&K state, Assembly had 87 seats — 46 in Kashmir, 37 in Jammu and four in Ladakh. After bifurcation of state into two Union Territories and creation of Ladakh UT, J&K Assembly was left with 83 seats. If Delimitation Commission sticks to its proposals, there will be 90 seats in J&K Assembly — 47 for Kashmir and 43 for Jammu.



Both NC and PDP are keen to reach out to people of six districts of Jammu region. NC vice-president and former CM Omar Abdullah visited the region from November 26 to December 2 and addressed at least eight major public gatherings and party conventions. In contrast, he addressed only half-a-dozen party conventions in the Valley from December 5 to 16.

Omar's father and NC president, Farooq Abdullah, visited Jammu from October 20-26 and addressed at least six meetings and party conventions, and another party convention from December 6-9. Surprisingly, the NC president has addressed only a few party workers' gatherings in Kashmir, where no major public gatherings have been held by any party in the last two years.

PDP chief and former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti, who has on many occasions been disallowed by authorities from addressing party workers in Kashmir, has also travelled to Chenab Valley, Pir Panjal and Jammu, and addressed at least 10 public gatherings and party workers' meetings.

Jammu-based political commentator Rekha Choudhary said parties were preparing for elections and as electioneering-like situation did not prevail in Kashmir, the only place they could go to was Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal, where they felt they needed to consolidate their support base. "In main Jammu, NC and PDP don't have much space. They are seeing some space in six districts of Jammu region and want to consolidate there. If they want to show their visibility, where else can they do it? They can't show it in Kashmir because that kind of narrative is missing there," she said, adding that Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley would be intensely contested areas.

In 2014 Assembly polls, PDP won three seats in Jammu region (Rajouri-Poonch districts) and NC three (two in Jammu and one in Poonch), while Congress won five (two from Reasi, one each from Kishtwar, Banihal and Poonch districts). BJP won all its 25 seats in the 2014 polls from Jammu region.

Kashmir-based political commentator Noor Baba said NC and PDP know Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal have social and cultural proximity to Kashmir, and are trying to build support base there, which is historically an extension of Kashmir. He said it will be difficult for them to make inroads in main Jammu, but it is possible in Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal.

PEGASUS PROBE

SC panel advises citizens to contact if phones infected

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE technical committee appointed by Supreme Court issued a public notice on Sunday asking citizens who suspected that their mobile devices were infected by Pegasus malware to contact the panel.

The notice was published in newspapers across the country on Sunday. "In case the committee feels your reasons for suspicion of the device being infected with the malware compel a further investigation, then the committee shall request you to allow examination of your device," the notice stated.

The apex court had in October set up the committee to probe the use of Pegasus against Indian citizens after a number of petitions were filed. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana criticised the Union government for its refusal to clarify whether it had purchased and used the spyware, and said it had to accept a prima facie case of the petitioners and examine their allegations.

The committee is overseen by former Supreme Court judge RV Raveendran, and has been asked to prepare a report after a thorough inquiry and submit it "expeditiously." The petitions had sought a court-monitored probe into the allegations, which arose after revelations about thr use of Pegasus around the world.

In its first response to the controversy, the Ministry of Defence said it did not have any transaction with the Israel-based NSO Group, which makes the spyware. The clarification came from Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt.

Over 1,000 Indian mobile numbers were on the list of possible targets. Controversy erupted after an investigation by a media consortium based on leaked targeting data claimed evidence that the malware from the NSO Group was used to spy on politicians, journalists, human rights activists and others.

SCUFFLE MAY HAVE CAUSED STAMPEDE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Srinagar

A three-member high-level committee probing the stampede at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in which 12 devotees were killed and 16 were injured has stated that it appears some minor scuffle between a few pilgrims may have led to the tragedy, while the shrine board has decided to cap the entry of pilgrims in the cave as per Covid protocol.

The committee made the observation prima facie. Two members of the committee, ADGP Jammu Zone Mukesh Singh and Divisional Commissioner Jammu Raghav Langer, visited the site on Saturday evening to take first-hand account of the situation. They met the Chief Executive Officer of the shrine board, Deputy Commissioner of Reasi, S P Katra and other officials. They also scrutinised the video footage available.

According to an official spokesman, "The committee mentioned that further details are being sought after which any conclusive findings can be drawn. However, prima facie it appears that some kind of minor scuffle between pilgrims may have led to the stampede near Gate No 3, where the pathway has a steep gradient."

The Vaishno Devi shrine board, too, has maintained that the incident happened due to a scuffle between pilgrims. On Sunday, a special meeting of shrine board was convened by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also chairman of the board, at Raj Bhavan in Jammu.

Vials being sorted at a Covid-19 testing centre in New Delhi on Sunday | PTI

Only virtual hearings in SC for two weeks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Sunday decided to conduct all hearings in virtual mode for two weeks starting from January 3, in view of rising number of cases of the Omicron variant of Covid-19.

The Supreme Court administration issued a circular announcing the decision on Sunday evening. It stated that an earlier circular prescribing standard operating procedures (SOP) for physical hearing (hybrid hearing) will remain suspended for the time being.

"It is notified for the information of the members of the bar, party-in-person and all concerned that keeping in view the rising number of cases of Omicron variant, the competent authority has been pleased to direct that modified Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) notified on October 7, 2021, for physical hearing (hybrid mode) will remain suspended for the present, and all hearings before the courts for a period of two weeks from and with effect from January 3, shall be through virtual mode only," the circular read.

The top court is reopening on Monday after its winter vacation. On October 7, it had issued an SOP stating matters that require lengthy hearings will be taken up on Wednesdays and Thursdays for physical hearing. To avoid overcrowding on miscellaneous days like Mondays and Fridays, hearing of cases was done through virtual mode only, and on Tuesdays, it was through a hybrid mode. The court has been hearing cases through video-conferencing since March 2020.

COVID TRACKER

1,525 Omicron cases in India in 23 states/UTs; **560** Omicron patients recovered/migrated; **27,553** Fresh Covid cases in India; **2.55%** Daily positivity rate; **1.35%** Weekly positivity rate; **1.38%** Case fatality rate

NCW SEEKS STERN ACTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THIS comes six months after police in Delhi and Noida registered cases over photos of Muslim women being uploaded to a similar Github app called "Sulli Deals". No arrests have been made in the case yet.

Politicians and the National Commission for Women pressed the Centre for stern action. PDP's Mehbooba Mufti alleged that the fringe elements had "official patronage".

A journalist wrote in her complaint to the police: "The derogatory term 'Bulli' is used exclusively for Muslim women and the entire website seems to have been designed with the intent of embarrassing and insulting Muslim women."

Cases increase but CBI short on staff

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the country's premier investigative agency, continues to be understaffed despite repeated raising of concern over the non-filling of vacancies. This apart, the number of pending cases have also shot up over the years.

Currently, the CBI has a working strength of 5,899 officials and personnel against the total sanctioned strength of 7,272 as on March 31, 2020. This means that there are 1,374 posts lying vacant right from the executive to canteen-boy ranks amid an increase in the number of cases being designated to the agency.

As per an official statement, more than 1,256 cases, including 64 cases for the last five years, are pending for investigation with the CBI.

Data in possession of this newspaper reveals that 829 posts in the executive rank are vacant as against the sanctioned strength of 5,000. At present, 4,171 officials in this rank are working with the agency. Similarly, 318 posts of ministerial staff are vacant after the highest number of 829 posts vacant in the executive rank.

According to the annual report of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC-2020), the CBI has an actual strength of 1,353 ministerial staffs against the sanctioned strength of 1,671. Besides, 96 posts of technical officers are also vacant with the actual strength of 66 against the sanctioned strength of 162. In the law wing of the country's prime investigating agency, 86 posts for the law officers out of a total sanctioned strength of 370 are lying vacant, while 45 vacancies exist for the canteen posts out of the sanctioned strength of 70.

Further, the CBI also had jurisdiction over certain cases relating to anti-corruption, economic offences, special crimes, directorate of prosecutions, administration, policy and coordination and the Central Forensic Science Laboratory divisions, with which it functions to ensure impartiality and integrity in investigations.

EYE ON FUTURE

Congress to target 7-18 age group for youth connect

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN a bid to groom young leaders, Congress has decided to reach out to youths across the country to create a network of future leaders, who have secular and socialist ideals and want to work towards nation-building.

The party is targeting children in the age group of 7 to 18 years with plans to start the 'Jawahar Bal Manch' to train them in various sectors. Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal has written to all state units regarding the same.

"Jawahar Bal Manch is one of its kind of corollary organisation affiliated to the AICC with the sole objective of providing and ensuring holistic learning and developmental environment to those who belong to the age group of 7-18. JBM owes its mission, vision, spirit and fervour to the ideals of Jawaharlal Nehru who always stood for catching them young and grooming them as future architects of India," he said.

The idea is that the platform will provide holistic learning and developmental opportunities as it envisions and aspires to inculcate in children the essence as well as the idea of India as a secular and inclusive nation.

GRASSROOTS GRATIFICATION

Engineer, MBA among Bihar panchayat heads

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

IT'S time for the young and highly educated to enter Bihar politics and learn the ropes at the grassroots level.

According to a survey by the state election commission, about 70-80% of newly-elected representatives of the three-tier Panchayati Raj institutions in Bihar are young, highly educated and debutants in the age group of 21-30 years.

Anushka is elated over her new assignment as mukhiya of Kushahar panchayat in Sheohar district. An engineering graduate from a Bengaluru institute, she was administered oath of office by the block development officer last week.

"I'd have got a job in a multinational anywhere after passing out from NMRKV College in Bengaluru. But destiny had something else in store for me. I had come to my native village during the Covid-19 pandemic, which changed the course of my life and I won the recently conducted panchayat polls," she said. "I've got an opportunity to serve people. I don't want to miss it," Anuksha said.

Arun Kumar, a former assistant commissioner at chief vigilance commission, has been elected mukhiya of Singhwahini panchayat in Sitamarhi district. Interestingly, he replaced his wife Ritu Jaiswal, who was the mukhiya of Singhwahini panchayat. Arun used to help Ritu in executing government schemes. Now his wife, who lost by a slender margin in Assembly polls in 2020, will support him. "Development works, which remained incomplete during the tenure of Ritu, will be completed," he said.

MBA Arvind Kumar Mahto and retired deputy superintendent of police Parshuram Ram got elected as mukhiyas of Mushahari Sonuwaria and Bhaisahi Pokharia panchayats in West Champaran district, respectively. Mahto was earlier working with a multinational company in Maharashtra. He returned home only to contest the panchayat polls. "Now I will devote my time to my panchayat," he told this daily.

ASSAM LYNCHING

A 45-year-old man was lynched by three persons in a village of Golaghat district in Assam on the suspicion that he had stolen a goat, police said on Sunday. Two persons have been held in connection with the incident

2 COPS SUSPENDED IN MP FOR ABUSING PEOPLE

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	28	15	Mumbai	32	23
Bhopal	26	11	Panaji	31	22
Jaipur	22	13	Patna	21	8
Amritsar	18	11	Lucknow	22	13
Chennai	30	23	Port Blair	30	26
Kolkata	25	15	Imphal	23	6
Srinagar	9	-2	Chandigarh	24	10

ST seats of Manipur hills slipping from Cong hands

Loss of power at Centre, emergence of Naga party dent its chances

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

THE Congress is hurtling down the Manipur hills, where the tribal Nagas and Kukis are the virtual kingmakers. Going by the past three elections and considering the emergence of the BJP and the National People's Party (NPP), the grand old party is likely to face a stiff challenge in the Assembly polls this year.

The BJP and the NPP are growing at the expense of the Congress. Of the 60 seats in the Assembly, 19 are reserved for the ST communities residing in the hills. The Naga People's Front (NPF), the BJP and the NPP are making deep inroads in these constituencies.

Prior to 2012, the contest in the hills used to be among the Congress, regional parties and Independents. For instance, nine of the 19 seats were captured by Independent candidates, mostly Nagas, in the 2007 election. Later, the NPF, a party floated in Nagaland, spread its wings to the Manipur hills, giving the Nagas a platform.

Besides the NPF, the BJP has emerged as a force by rising to power at the Centre as well as in Assam. Then, there was the emergence of the NPP.

The perception among observers, as well as in the Congress, is that the NPF and the NPP will better their 2017 performance this time. However, as the constituent of the state's coalition government, the BJP will have an edge over others.

As for the NPF, observers say that as a symbol of Naga nationalism, it might capitalise on the sentiments of Nagas vis-á-vis the stalemate in the Centre's peace talks with the Naga rebel groups.

The tribal-based NPP is another party the Nagas can relate to. Headed by Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma, the NPP is likely to contest in 40 constituencies this time. Last time, it had contested in nine and won two. All winning candidates supported the BJP and were inducted into the cabinet. Observers say the NPP might win five to nine seats this time.

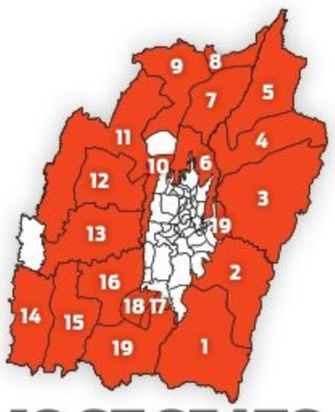
The only advantage for the Congress could be the division of votes. It is believed that anti-Congress votes will go to too many parties, eventually benefiting the grand old party. However, the Congress admitted it is difficult for any party to win in the North-east without being in power at the Centre. "We were very strong in the hill areas before 2017, but could not do well in 2017 as we lost power at the Centre in 2014," said party spokesperson K Debabrata.

"Even if the votes get divided, we will not get less than half of the 19 seats," Debabrata said, adding the threat to his party is from the NPF and the BJP, and less from the NPP, "for it is people's fourth choice".

Pradip Phanjoubam, editor of *Imphal Review of Arts and Politics*, said the Congress had suffered in 2017 as the party-led state government had prevented NSCN-IM leader Thuingaleng Muivah from visiting his birthplace in Manipur's Ukhrul. "The Congress could have won a few more seats in the hills if it were not banned (by the NSCN-IM)," Phanjoubam added.

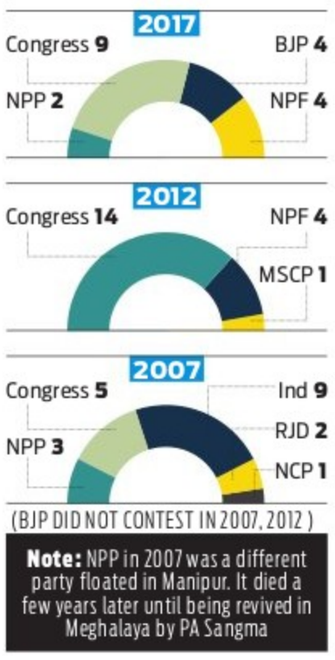
Political PULSE

TRIBAL-DOMINATED CONSTITUENCIES



19 ST SEATS

1. Chandel, **2.** Tengnoupal, **3.** Phungyar, **4.** Ukhrul, **5.** Chingai, **6.** Saikul, **7.** Karong, **8.** Mao, **9.** Tadubi, **10.** Saitu, **11.** Tamei, **12.** Tamenglong, **13.** Nungba, **14.** Tipaimukh, **15.** Thanlon, **16** Henglep, **17.** Churachandpur, **18.** Saikot, **19.** Singhat



(BJP DID NOT CONTEST IN 2007, 2012)

Note: NPP in 2007 was a different party floated in Manipur. It died a few years later until being revived in Meghalaya by PA Sangma

'Yogi playing jail-jail with mafia of western UP'

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

HARPING on the sensitive issue of 'exodus' in western Uttar Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed that the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government ended the reign of terror unleashed by mafia, criminals which once forced people to leave the region.

"How can people forget those days of terror when goons used to set their houses ablaze. It was a different game the mafias and criminals used to play in the previous government forcing the people migrate leaving behind their ancestral homes in this area," the PM said in Meerut while laying the foundations stone of ₹700 crore Major Dhyan Chandra Sports University on Sunday.

He also referred to the poor law and order situation scenario during the Samajwadi Party rule without taking its name, saying that five years back girls used to be scared to step out after it got dark. "Today, they are making new records in sports bringing laurels to the country at international events."

Migration of Hindu families is a sensitive issue in western UP, especially in Kairana town of Shamli district adjoining Meerut. Shamli and Muzaffarnagar districts have over 40 per cent of Muslim population.

"Earlier, mafia and criminals used to play their own games. They used to have their own tournament of illegal land grabbing but now the situation is different and people are coming back to their homes on assurance of the dispensation," he said. "The game with vehicles (carjacking) has ended in Sotipur and the youth are getting opportunity to hover over the horizon of sports."

Being at the farmers' turf, PM invoked former PM Chaudhury Charan Singh calling him a visionary to blunt the attack of opposition over farm agitation. Charan Singh's grandson Jayant Chaudhury has some traction among the farmers of western UP after the recent protests over farm laws.

PM Narendra Modi uses an equipment at an exhibition in Meerut on Sunday | PTI

VIRUS SITUATION IN POLL-BOUND STATES

Amid debates over postponing the Assembly elections in five states, here is a look at the day's Covid-19 tally in these states

	UTTAR PRADESH	MANIPUR	UTTARAKHAND	GOA	PUNJAB
	552 Fresh cases	16 Fresh cases	259 Fresh cases	388 Fresh cases	417 Fresh cases
	0 Deaths	1 Deaths	0 Deaths	1 Deaths	3 Deaths
	0.30% Positivity rate	NA Positivity rate	1.91% Positivity rate	10.7% Positivity rate	3.01% Positivity rate

NO *SHAMSHAN* & *KABRISTAN*, AAP PROMISES SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Lucknow

LAUNCHING his party's poll campaign in the Uttar Pradesh capital on Sunday, Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party convenor Arvind Kejriwal promised the voters that if given a chance to form government in the state, his party would invest in constructing schools and hospitals unlike other regimes who spent the money on "*shamshan* and *kabristan*".

Addressing a rally, Kejriwal referred to PM Modi as BJP's biggest leader who had woven his 2017 poll narrative around *shamshan* and *kabristan*.

"BJP's biggest leader had said in 2017 that if *kabristan* was built, *shamshan* should also get constructed. Previous governments got the *shamshan* and *kabristan* constructed. Give us the opportunity to make what we know the best — constructing schools and hospitals," said Kejriwal.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath has been asserting that unlike previous governments who spent money on forming the boundary wall of *kabristans* during their tenure, his government had fortified the seats of faith by spending on Kashi Vishwanath Corridor and makeover of Ayodhya.

Taking credit for his government's management of the Covid-19 crisis, Kejriwal said that the UP government had failed miserably in helping people during the pandemic. "People kept on dying due to lack of medical oxygen and the BJP government could give them neither the treatment nor the oxygen."

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal speaks during 'Kejriwal Ki Maharally' in Lucknow on Sunday | PTI

35 KM Length of road | ₹6K CR Estimated cost | 2 TUNNELS with estimated length of 1.5 to 1.6 km and 500 to 600 metres

Assam awaits nod for 35-km elevated road via Kaziranga

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

THE Assam government is awaiting clearance from the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for a 35-km-long elevated road project through the world famous Kaziranga National Park.

The ₹6,000-crore road will run over nine animal corridors and an existing national highway. The basic idea behind the project is to ensure the safety of wild animals.

"We submitted a report on the road alignment to the highways ministry last week. We are hoping to get the clearance in the next 10-15 days," an official source said on Sunday.

Earlier, the state government had submitted an alignment report for a two-lane road but the ministry suggested a 4-lane project looking at the increase in traffic in the future.

"We fixed the alignment in coordination with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). We consider it as a Kaziranga project, not a highway project," the source said.

Kaziranga National Park field director P Sivakumar said he had insisted on the removal of structures and human settlements from the nine corridors. Investment is not for road transport but for the smooth passage of animals from Kaziranga to Karbi Anglong and vice versa, he said.

"The project will not benefit Kaziranga if the settlements are not cleared. They have to be converted into parts of the park. People settled on these corridors have to be compensated and relocated," he said.

SIT to probe Dharam Sansad hate speech case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Dehradun

UTTARAKHAND Police has formed a five-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe allegations of hate speech at 'Dharam Sansad' in Haridwar, a senior police officer said on Sunday.

The SIT headed by an officer of the superintendent of police rank will investigate the matter, Deputy-Inspector General, Garhwal division, Karan Singh Nagnyal said.

On Saturday, the police registered a case against Dharam Sansad organiser Yati Narsinghanand and Sagar Sindhu Maharaj for deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings and for promoting enmity between different groups. The case was registered on the complaint of Nadim Ali, a resident of Haridwar.

Apart from Narsinghanand and Sindhu, the other three named in the FIR are Jitendra Narayan Tyagi, Annapurna Maa alias Pooja Shakun Pandey, and Dharamdas Maharaj.

Narsinghanand, the head priest of a temple in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad, had allegedly called for a war against Muslims and urged Hindus to take up weapons for stopping Muslims from taking the chair of Prime Minister in 2029.

It is not the first time that his name has cropped up for all the wrong reasons. In August last, the National Commission for Women (NCW) had asked the UP Police to take action against Narsinghanand for inappropriate remarks against women.

On December 30, notices were sent to Jitendra Narayan Tyagi and Annapurna Maa to appear before police for questioning in the matter. Officials added that more notices will be served to more accused.

EXPRESS READ

Congress won't name CM candidate in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD: The Congress party will fight under a collective leadership in Gujarat and not project any face as its chief ministerial candidate, a senior leader said. Congress in charge for Gujarat Raghu Sharma asserted that the party has declared its chief minister's face on very rare occasions only. "Nowhere has the CM face been declared, and elections will be fought everywhere under collective leadership," Sharma said. ENS

Many Jungle Mahal homes survive on dole

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

A survey in Jungle Mahal, the most backward pocket of Bengal, on the use of cash directly transferred to the bank accounts under Mamata Banerjee's flagship project titled Lakshmir Bhandar has revealed 43 per cent of the beneficiaries spend a major part of the dole on buying daily items.

The survey was conducted among 600 families in 100 villages. In the backdrop of sharp drop in consumption of daily items indicating a decline in the standard of living, the survey reflected the dole not only improved the quality of life but also gave a big push to the local economy.

PURPOSE OF SPENDING

- 43% GROCERIES AND UTENSILS
- 10% TUITION FEES FOR CHILDREN
- 23% AGRICULTURE NEED
- 7% REARING OF LIVESTOCK
- 5% LPG CYLINDERS
- 4% REPAYING SMALL LOANS
- 5% SAVING MONEY
- 3% MISCELLANEOUS

The scheme, promised by Mamata ahead of the Assembly elections and implemented right after the TMC came to power for the third straight term, offers monthly help of ₹1,000 to women heads of SC and ST families and ₹500 to those in general categories. At present, the state government has to spend around ₹16,000 crore annually for the scheme.

Enjoying the electoral benefit of the scheme, Mamata has promised similar venture for the women of poll-bound Goa, increasing the dole to ₹5,000.

"Our study found that 43 per cent of beneficiaries are spending majority of the monthly dole in procuring grocery items. Many others are spending the dole for tuition or education fees of children and to meet agriculture needs," said a member of the study team.

Soumen Bishui, a PhD scholar at Raja Narendra Lal Khan Women's college under Vidyasagar University, lead the survey team.

OBC outfit plans third front ahead of 2023 MP elections

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

A third political front comprising Other Backward Castes (OBC), Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) could be in the making in Madhya Pradesh, which has traditionally seen a bipolar fight between BJP and Congress.

OBC Mahasabha national general secretary Tulsiram Patel on Sunday dropped enough hints about the formation of third front for the 2023 Assembly polls. "OBC candidates of all parties take our votes in the name of furthering the cause of backward castes, but forget it after winning the polls. We're now preparing to form an OBC led front for the 2023 polls in MP. It will be replicated nationally," Patel said. "Tribal outfit Jai Adivasi Yuva Shakti and Bhim Army are our younger brothers and will be part of all our plans for the future."

Patel, Bhim Army leader Chandrashekhar Azad Ravan were among the 80-90 OBC, SC and ST leaders who were taken in custody in Bhopal before they could march to the CM's residence to demand panchayat polls with OBC reservation. OBCs constitute 52% of the state's population.

Book lovers rejoice, Assam Book Fair begins

Book lovers are ecstatic, thanks to Assam Book Fair being held in the city. Organised by the Publication Board Assam and All Assam Publishers and Booksellers Association, the fair was inaugurated by education minister Ranoj Pegu on December 29. He expressed happiness that people are reading books. On the second day, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal was among the visitors. Apart from buying some books, he interacted with the visitors, particularly students. Sonowal insisted that the youth must make reading books a daily habit. The fair will continue till January 9.

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR
Our correspondent in Guwahati
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GUWAHATI DIARY

Dy speaker to give up security over CM's clarion call

Responding to the call of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Deputy Speaker Numal Momin announced that he would forgo Personal Security Officers (PSOs). He said his decision was a "personal choice". He claimed there were no security threats in Assam. Earlier, the presidents of BJP's two district units had given up PSOs. In a message against VIP culture, Sarma had recently called upon the BJP leaders to give up PSOs. "Why do we need PSOs? I can stoutly say that there is no threat to the life of any BJP member," he said, adding that keeping PSOs was a Congress 'culture'. However, the chief minister called on state BJP president Bhabesh Kalita to take a decision on party leaders forgoing VIP culture. In response, the party state president recently said a step would be taken in this regard soon.

Assam gets first woman Inspector General

Violet Baruah (in pic) has become the first woman Inspector General of Assam Police. Prior to this promotion, she was serving as Deputy Inspector General in Kokrajhar district. A recipient of the President's Medal for Meritorious Service, the officer has worked as Superintendent of Police in four districts and in the Crime Investigation Department. She joined the Assam Police Services in 1992 and was nominated to IPS in 2004. Baruah asserted she had never spurned any task or posting. She said that was the reason why she spent most of her life in the police service outside Guwahati.

IIT-Guwahati excels overall in 2021-22

The last year was fabulous for IIT-Guwahati. Overcoming the challenges posed by the pandemic, it showed multifaceted progress. The highlights include breakthrough in research and innovation, initiation of major new schools and centres as well as courses in line with the NEP. Institute researchers also developed a technology to provide drinking water free of contaminants like iron, arsenic, fluoride, etc, with the help of various prototype units and innovative technology. Several such units have been installed in Assam and other northeast states. The institute also received 179 PPOs in 2021-22, which is highest in last three academic years.

22
injured in a 5.5-magnitude earthquake that struck southwest China

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	22	15	HR	Los Angeles	30	17	SNY
Colombo	29	26	TDS	Melbourne	13	7	LR
Dhaka	30	26	TDS	Moscow	6	5	LR
Dubai	40	31	SNY	New York	25	18	SNY
Houston	38	25	SNY	Singapore	31	27	LC
Istanbul	30	20	SNY	Toronto	22	19	LC
London	20	10	LC	Washington	27	18	LC

Firemen spray water on flames erupting from a building at South Africa's Parliament in Cape Town on Sunday | AFP

Massive fire burns down South African parliament

Inferno defies sustained efforts to tame it, eats up entire chamber

CAPE TOWN

A massive fire in South Africa's houses of parliament in Cape Town has completely destroyed the National Assembly where parliamentarians sit, a spokesman said on Sunday as the blaze continued to rage.

"The entire chamber where the members sit... has burned down," Moloto Mothapo said, adding that the blaze had still not been extinguished. No casualties have been reported so far but President Cyril Ramaphosa told reporters at the scene an arrest had been made. "Someone has been held right now and is being questioned," he said.

An investigation has been opened into the blaze which started at around 0300 GMT on Sunday in the parliament complex's oldest wing, which was completed in 1884 and has wood-panelled rooms.

As day dawned, smoke could be seen billowing from the building against a blue sky.

"The roof of the Old Assembly building has collapsed and is gone," Jean-Pierre Smith, Cape Town's mayoral committee member for safety and security, told reporters earlier.

The historic building houses a collection of rare books and the original copy of the former Afrikaans national anthem "Die Stem van Suid-Afrika" ("The Voice of South Africa"), which was already damaged.

"The entire building has suffered extensively smoke and water damage," Smith said, adding "the fire has not been contained".

After ravaging the older wing of the building, the flames spread to newer parts of the complex which are currently in use.

"Firefighters are currently trying to control the fire in the New Wing, where the fire has affected the National Assembly Chamber," parliamentary spokesman Mothapo told an online news conference earlier in the day. The imposing red and white building was still shrouded in a thick cloud of black at midday. A team of firefighters who were first to arrive at the scene battled the flames for several hours before being forced to retreat and call for reinforcements. Around 70 firefighters were later deployed, some using a crane to spray water on the blaze.

Former Cape Town mayor and current minister Patricia de Lille warned it would still be several hours before the fire was brought under control.

Inside the rooms, fine showers of grey ash fell from the ceiling to the floor, which was already littered with debris.

Emergency services said they feared the fire could spread swiftly through the old rooms, which are decorated with wood, thick carpets and curtains.

Images broadcast on television had earlier shown giant flames leaping from the roof.

The area around the fire in the upmarket neighbourhood was quickly cordoned off.

The cordon stretched to a square where flowers were still displayed in front of the nearby St. George's Cathedral, where anti-apartheid icon Archbishop Desmond Tutu's funeral took place on Saturday.

After a simple, no-frills mass, with a cheap coffin — according to the famously modest Tutu's instructions — his ashes were interred in the cathedral on Sunday. *AFP*

Setback for prince's bid to block lawsuit

NEW YORK

PRINCE Andrew's effort to immediately block the progression of a lawsuit by a woman who says he sexually assaulted her when she was 17 — on the grounds that she no longer lives in the US — was rejected by a federal judge as oral arguments were set to proceed on Monday on the prince's request to dismiss the lawsuit.

Judge Lewis A Kaplan, in a written order on Friday, told the prince's lawyers they must turn over documents on the schedule that has been set in the lawsuit brought in August by Virginia Giuffre. Giuffre says she was abused by the prince on multiple occasions in 2001 while she was being sexually abused by financier Jeffrey Epstein. The prince's attorney, Andrew Brettler, has called the lawsuit "baseless."

Prince Andrew

The order was filed three days before the scheduled public release Monday of a 2009 settlement agreement between Epstein and Giuffre. Lawyers for Andrew say that the agreement protects the prince from claims like those brought by Giuffre and will be sufficient grounds for the lawsuit's dismissal. The prince's lawyers had claimed that the evidence was so strong that Giuffre does not reside in the US that it was pointless to exchange evidence until that question is resolved because it could result in the lawsuit's dismissal.

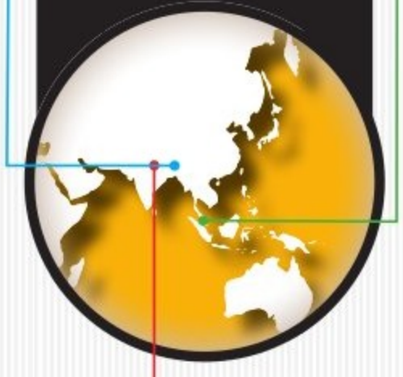
They argued that Giuffre has lived in Australia all but two of the past 19 years, has an Australian driver's license and lives in a $1.9 million home in Perth, Western Australia.

In a statement, Giuffre attorney Sigrid McCawley called the request to halt the case "just another in a series of tired attempts by Prince Andrew to duck and dodge the legal merits of the case Virginia Giuffre has brought against him."

Kaplan, in a one-page order, noted that the prince's lawyers have requested that "extensive" materials be turned over by Giuffre by January 14, including documents related to where she has lived.

In the cover page of a lawsuit in September 2015, Giuffre listed her address as Penrose, Colorado. In the cover letter of an April 2019 lawsuit, she listed her address as Palm Cove, Australia, and marked a box as "citizen or subject of a foreign country." But in her lawsuit against the prince, she listed her address as Ocean Reef, Western Australia, but checked a box that said "citizen of another state." *AP*

ASIA MATTERS



BANGLADESH

Police to probe attack on temples

Police have registered complaints over alleged desecration of three temples in Bangladesh as the members of the Hindu community staged protests demanding the arrest of culprits behind the incident in Lalmonirhat district, bordering India, a media report said on Sunday. The protests began after raw beef packed in polythene bags were hung on the doors of three Hindu temples and a house in Gendukuri village of Lalmonirhat district's Hatibandha upazila in the early hours of Friday, the Daily Star newspaper reported. Four complaints were filed with Hatibandha Police Station Friday night over the matter, the paper added. The Muslim residents in the area condemned the incident, attributing it to those wanting to disrupt interfaith harmony, said a local journalist.

NEPAL

Speeding bus skids off road, 22 passengers killed

A speeding bus carrying 22 passengers skidded off the road in Western Nepal on Sunday, killing at least seven people and wounding 15, police said. The bus, carrying a dead body for the last rites, was heading towards Ridi when it met an accident at Ribdikot in Palpa district. All the 15 people, who sustained injuries, have been admitted to a local hospital for medical treatment, police said, adding that brake failure caused the accident on the steep road. The driver has been apprehended and further investigation into the incident is underway, police said.

SINGAPORE

Indian arrested over death of compatriot

An Indian has been arrested in Singapore for allegedly killing a compatriot with a wooden plank embedded with nails following a dispute on New Year's Day, a media report said on Sunday. Paneer Vetrivel, 26, is alleged to have hit Rajendran Shanmugasundran, 37, with the plank near 20 Woodlands Industrial Park E1 between 1 AM and 1.25 AM on January 1, *The Straits Times* newspaper reported. He was charged with voluntarily causing grievous hurt by a dangerous weapon at a migrant workers' dormitory in a special sitting of the Criminal Mentions Court on Sunday. If convicted of voluntarily causing grievous hurt with a dangerous weapon, he can be jailed for life and caned, or jailed for up to 15 years, caned and fined, it said.

Devotees pray at renovated Pak temple

ISLAMABAD

OVER 200 Hindu pilgrims from India, the US and the Gulf region prayed at the 100-year-old renovated Maharaja Paramhans Ji mandir in Pakistan on Saturday amidst tight security, a year after the temple was demolished by a mob belonging to a radical Islamist party.

The delegation of Hindus consisted of nearly 200 devotees from India, 15 from Dubai, the rest from the US and other Gulf states. The temple and 'samadhi' of Paramhans Ji in Karak district's Teri village of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa underwent extensive repair last year after it was demolished by an angry mob in 2020, an incident that was condemned globally.

The Indian pilgrims crossed over through the Wagah Border near Lahore, and were escorted to the temple by armed personnel, officials said. The programme has been organised by the Pakistani Hindu Council in collaboration with the national carrier Pakistan International Airlines. *PTI*

Another media house to down shutters in HK

HONG KONG

A Hong Kong online news site said on Sunday that it would cease operations in light of deteriorating press freedoms, days after police raided and arrested seven people for sedition at a separate pro-democracy news outlet.

Citizen News announced its decision in a Facebook post Sunday.

It said it would stop updating its site on January 4, and it would be shuttered after that.

"We have always loved this land, but at present, we are helpless as we are not only facing wind and rain, but tornadoes and huge waves," the news site said.

"We have never forgotten our original intentions, but it is a pity that the rapid changes in society in the past two years and the deterioration of the media environment have prevented us from achieving our ideals without worry."

Citizen News is the third news outlet to close in recent months, following pro-democracy newspaper *Apple Daily* and online site *Stand News*.

Authorities have moved to silent dissent in the semi-autonomous city, once known as a hub for vibrant media outlets, after Beijing implemented a sweeping national security law following massive protests in 2019. The impending closure of *Citizen News* came days after authorities raided *Stand News* and arrested seven people including editors and former board members for allegedly conspiring to publish seditious material.

Stand News announced on the same day that it would cease to operate. *AP*

ROYAL FAMILY FACES EXTINCTION IN JAPAN

JAPAN'S IMPERIAL FAMILY IS FACING EXTINCTION DUE TO A SHORTAGE OF ELIGIBLE EMPERORS

A SYSTEM THAT FAVOURS MALES

With women barred from the throne under male-only succession rules, the place of Emperor Naruhito, 61, will one day be filled by his nephew Prince Hisahito instead of his only child Aiko

But if 15-year-old Hisahito does not have a son, the royal family, whose history dates back more than 2,600 years, will run out of male heirs to continue the bloodline

Japan's Emperor Naruhito (L), Empress Masako (R) and their daughter Princess Aiko (C) wave at members of the media | AFP

CAN AN EMPRESS TAKE THE THRONE?

Polls show the public broadly supports the idea of a woman taking the role of emperor — one that holds no political power under Japan's post-World War II constitution but carries symbolic importance

However, pressure to stick to long-held tradition from conservative lawmakers and voters, who revere the royals as the perfect example of a patriarchal Japanese family, makes female succession unlikely any time soon

ROYAL LIFE, NO EASY DEAL

Royal women have long walked a difficult path in Japan. Naruhito's wife Masako, a former diplomat, struggled for years with a stress-related illness after joining the household, which some have put down to the pressure of producing a male heir

REFORMS PROPOSED

Officials are brainstorming possible solutions to the dilemma, and last week a specially commissioned panel submitted two suggestions to the government

The second is to allow men from 11 former branches of the royal family abolished in post-war reforms to "rejoin" the direct line through adoption

One is to allow royal women to keep their title and public duties when they wed outside the family. Currently, they must leave the family, as former princess Mako Komuro did in October after marrying her university sweetheart

Mystery over man seen crossing into N Korea

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea's military said on Sunday that an unidentified person crossed the heavily fortified border into North Korea.

The person was earlier spotted by surveillance equipment at the eastern portion of the border, known as the Demilitarized Zone, but avoided capture by South Korean troops on Saturday night.

The surveillance later detected the person crossing the border, Joint Chiefs of Staff officers said. South Korea sent a message to North Korea on Sunday morning to ensure the safety of the person, but the North hasn't responded, the officers said.

It was unclear if this was a rare case of a South Korean hoping to defect to the North, or it could be a North Korean who briefly entered the South Korean territory for some reason before returning to the North.

In September 2020, North Korea fatally shot a South Korean fisheries official found floating in its waters along a poorly marked sea boundary. South Korea said North Korea troops were under orders to shoot anyone illegally crossing the border.

Earlier in 2020, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un placed a border city under total lockdown after a North Korean defector with Covid-19-like symptoms sneaked back home.

The fate of that defector, who had lived in South Korea, is not known. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

Israel strikes Gaza after rocket attacks

Jerusalem: Israel's military said early on Sunday it launched strikes against militant targets in the Gaza Strip, a day after rockets were fired from the Hamas-ruled territory. Videos showed three huge explosions and fighter jets could be heard flying overhead. The Israeli military said the attacks targeted a rocket manufacturing facility.

Macron takes over EU reins ahead of election

PARIS

FRANCE takes over the rotating presidency of the European Union on Saturday, affording President Emmanuel Macron the chance to pose as the EU's de facto leader in the run-up to national elections in April.

The 44-year-old has never made any secret of his ambitions to be the motor for further European integration, serving over the last four years as a dynamic sidekick to the more steady German chancellor Angela Merkel in Europe's power couple. With Merkel now retired and the timely gift of the rotating presidency of the EU Council from January 1, Macron has announced an ambitious agenda for the 27-member bloc that could also serve his domestic campaign for re-election.

"The year 2022 must be a turning point for Europe," he said in a New Year's Eve national address that hailed the EU's role during the Covid-19 crisis. Referring to the French presidency, he vowed that "you can count on my complete commitment to ensure that this period, which comes around every 13 years, is a time of progress for you".

The centrist, who made his Europhile views a key part of his political campaign when winning the presidency in 2017, is hoping it will again serve him in elections scheduled for April 10 and 24.

"The EU presidency gives him a welcome platform to put his European record to the forefront and differentiate himself from his rivals and bring new proposals, new ideas to the table," said Claire Demesmay, an expert at the Marc-Bloch think-tank in Berlin. Strutting on the international stage has also long been a popular move for any French president. *AFP*

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DOCUMENTS LOST

I **SAKTHIVEL M.**, residing at No. 8, 3rd cross, Dhanalakshmi Nilayam, Pottigarden, S.M. Road, Jallahalli west, Bengaluru 560015, do hereby inform the General public that I have lost the original document title as Sale Deed dated 10/07/2003 in the name of Munihanumakka registered as Document No. 12818-2003-04, in Book No. I, Volume No. 580, registered in the office of sub Registrar, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru, while returning from peenya sub Registrar office on 29/12/2021. Inspite of best efforts I could not trace the same and in this regard I have lodged a complaint on 31/12/2021, Vide Report No. BLRC202112318 before the Rajagopalnagar Police station, Bengaluru. If anybody finds the above said document or is in possession of the same, please hand over the same to the above address or contact me on Mobile No. 9035100177. **SAKTHIVEL M.**

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU

[IN THE MATTER OF ASSETS LEFT BEHIND BY MRS K.B. BOJAMMA W/o SRI Dr. K.M. BOJAPPA WHO IS THE WIFE OF FIRST PETITIONER AND MOTHER OF PETITIONER Nos. 2, 3 and 4]

P& S.C. No. 697/2021

BETWEEN : 1. Dr. K.M. BOJAPPA, S/o Late Kaverira Puttappa Muthanna. Aged about 92 years,

2. Mrs. KUNJALI VINOO LAKSHMAN, D/o K.M. Bojappa, W/o K.M. Lakshman. Aged about 65 years, R/at. No 414, Anugraha, 3rd Main, H.M.T Society, Anand Nagar, R.T Nagar Post, Bengaluru 560024

3.Mr. KAVERIRA BOJAPPA SHASHIRAJ, S/o K.M. Bojappa. Aged about 63 years, R/at. No 22/23 6th Main, Narayanappa Block, R. T. Nagar Post, Bengaluru 560032

4.Mr. KAVERIRA BOJAPPA MADHURAJ, S/o K.M.Bojappa, Aged about 61 years,

Petitioners No 1 and 4 Are residing at No 22, 6th Main, Narryanappa Block, R.T.Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560032 ....PETITIONERS

AND

NIL ....RESPONDENT

WHEREAS, the Petitioners have filed a Petition under section 372 OF THE INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925 for issue of Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioners in respect of the assets, securities etc. held by the deceased and consequently to declare that the Petitioners are the legal heirs of deceased **SMT. KB. BOJAMMA** who are entitled to be declared legal heirs to claim the benefits/ securities/assets held by SMT.K.B. BOJAMMA who died **on 20.07.2018** as per law and grant such other relief in the above petition.

This Hon'ble Court has fixed the **04/02/2022 CCH-25 at 11.00 am** for hearing the petition. If any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s in respect of the Schedule mentioned below may enter appearance on the aforesaid date in person or through counsel at CCH-25 failing which, the matter will be decided on the said petition

SCHEDULE

ITEM No. 1 : The entire shares, debentures, dividends/bonus shares / preferential shares and proceeds from below in respect of the shares held in the erstwhile with Karvy Stock broking DPID IN 300394 and the new Client ID 80005799.

Sl No.	PARTICULARS	No. of Shares
1.	Aditya Birla Capital Ltd., INE 674K01013	26
2.	Aditya Birla Fashions & Retail Ltd, INE 647001011	67
3.	Grasim Industries Ltd INE 047A01021	19
4.	Hindalco India Ltd, INE 038A01020	160
5.	JSW Steel Ltd INE 019A01038	130
6.	Larsen and Toubro Ltd, INE 018A01030	450
7.	Reliance Capital Ltd., INE 013A01015	09
8.	Reliance Industries Ltd., INE 002A01018	792
9.	Reliance Power Ltd INE 614G01033	49
10.	Titan Company Ltd INE 280A01028	2340

ITEM No. 2 : The entire shares 40 shares of TITAN LIMITED and 40 shares of ULTRATECH CEMENTS LTD. listed below and if any.

Sl No.	PARTICULARS	No. of Shares
1.	Titan Company Ltd, INE 280A01028	40
2.	Ultratech Cements Ltd. INE 481G01011	40

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this the 23rd day of December 2021.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sd/- ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
CITY CIVIL COURT, BANGALORE
ADDRESS FOR SERVICE
Niranjana M & Nalini.S. Advocates,
No. 517,16th Main, 1st 'A' Cross
S.B.M. Colony, Bengaluru-560 050
PLACE: Bengaluru DATE : 23-12-2021

QuoteExpress
PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES
ROBERT H SCHULLER

₹1.11 L cr — Nine of the top-10 most-valued firms together added in market valuation last week.

2022: A YEAR FOR MULTI-ASSET STRATEGY

Currently, investors are adopting a blend of active investment style and multi-asset strategy that is likely to give superior outcome

SANKARAN NAREN
The Author is Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer of ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company

THE ultra-low-cost money showered by the global central bank to counter the economic slowdown caused by the pandemic, has propelled the global equity market to $120 trillion-a record high.

The expected tapering in 2022 could test investors' nerves owing to resultant heightened volatility as global central banks start turning off their taps--at a time when there is little comfort on valuation.

If the central banks shift towards a more aggressive monetary tightening stance, it may result in a surge in market volatility, particularly in Emerging Markets like India. The risk-on sentiment among foreign investors, particularly to hedge funds, can be gauged from the fact that the FPI has sold more than $5 billion in the December quarter.

Despite a host of global concerns, the Indian market is on a strong footing when looked at as per the Valuation, Cycle, Triggers and Sentiment (VCTS) framework. On the valuation front, Indian equities are trading at 22 times one year forward, a 40% premium to long-term average and market cap to GDP ratio will be above the historical average. Our Equity Valuation Index highlights that valuations are not cheap and recommends equity investing only with a long term perspective while strictly adhering to asset allocation framework.

SOUMYADIP SINHA

We believe the economy is on the verge of capex recovery led by government policy and expenditure push which shall give impetus to private capex and consumption demand by creating employment. Owing to these factors, we expect business cycle to improve further. Corporates have deleveraged, government fiscal deficit is under control and non-performing loans cycle of the financial sector too is under control.

The manufacturing sector in India has been under stress for most part of the previous decade. The sector faced problems of high debt or of deflation being exported out of China where over-capacity left most manufacturers with very low profits and low return on equities. Indian manufacturing stands to benefit from the China+1 strategy adopted by various global manufacturers. Crack down on Chinese technology companies and disruption of global supply chains as was seen during the pandemic times has reinforced the China+1 strategy. In fact, today manufacturing is doing very well, profitability is picking up and on top of it, they have announced capacity expansions.

Infrastructure is another space, where the government has been continuously spending and where private sector capex was almost absent in the last 10 years. Construction and real estate which are large employment generating sectors are also showing signs of a pick-up.

On trigger perspective, the US Fed dialling back and severity of new Covid variants ate the near term triggers the market will be watching out for. And finally in terms of sentiment, while investor sentiment appears to be buoyant, the euphoria emerging in the primary market is a worrying sign.

Investment Take

It has been seen historically, that when asset prices reach a fully valued level, they tend to exhibit higher volatility. So, equity markets in India could tend to be volatile owing to the developments surrounding Fed announcements and owing to the uncertainties related to how Coronavirus may pan out. While equity markets may do well over long term, our medium term view is cautious.

If you over invested in risky assets, then it is better to prune one's exposure. In the current circumstance, investors are adopting a blend of active investment style and multi-asset strategy is likely to give superior outcome compared with sticking to single asset strategy. Investors should look at a combination of other assets including debt, gold, real estate and global funds. This is where a multi asset strategy or multi asset fund comes in.

We are overweight domestic facing sectors such as autos, banks, telecom and some of the defensive sectors which have corrected like pharma and healthcare.

On the other hand, we are underweight consumer non-durables as we believe the cash flow of the lower strata of population is scarred due to the after effects of the pandemic leading to stress on the consumption side. Looking at the debt side, the returns are likely to be muted in an increasing interest rate environment, but in the medium-term it can potentially give superior risk-adjusted returns and one needs to have a portion of their portfolio in debt from the perspective of capital preservation.

Understand 'Open Interest' in trading

RAM SAHGAL @ Mumbai

THE Nifty active futures contract rose along with an increase in its open interest on Friday, indicating a build-up of bullish sentiment.

The price of the futures contract, expiring on January 27, rose by almost a percent to 17420, accompanied by an increase in open interest (OI) by 7% from the previous session.

The active futures refers to the near month, in this case January contract, while the mid-month futures is the February one and the far month the March contract.

Terms like open interest, active futures, etc. are Greek to most retail investors. Most retail investors might not be even taking a plunge in the futures and options trade, yet taking cue from futures and options markets may help retail investors better time their investments in the equity market.

Basics of Open Interest

A futures contract facilitates the purchase or sale of an underlying asset for a predetermined price on a future date. Index derivatives trading on Indian stock exchanges is cash settled while an increasing number of stocks are being made delivery based by the exchanges.

Open interest (OI), in simple terms, is an outstanding buy or sell position on such a futures contract. The buyer or seller keeps his or her position open, rather than closing it out before the end of a session.

The effect of opening and closing out of positions intraday adds to the volume, not to the OI, which keeps rising or falling depending on whether people hold their positions beyond market closing.

The price-OI relationship can give an indication of market mood.

For example, if price rise is accompanied by an OI rise, the sentiment (on the asset) is bullish. If the price falls and OI rises, the sentiment is bearish. If the price rises but OI remains relatively flat, the asset, say, Nifty futures, is topping out and due for a correction while if the price falls and the OI change is insignificant, the asset is bottoming out.

"Apart from technicals, like charts, the price-OI relationship provides important pointers to the market or stock trend," said SK Joshi, ED, Khambatta Securities, who in his previous role as director, finance, BPCL, set up the trading desk at the oil refiner.

Calculating OI

If trader A buys a futures contract and trader B sells one contract on Monday, there is one long and one short contract. By Monday end, OI is 1.

On Tuesday, trader C sells 3 contracts which trader A buys, the total short contracts are 4 and the long contracts are 4 (B = 1 short, C= 3 short and A = 4 long). OI is 4.

On Wednesday, trader C squares off her 3 shorts by buying them back from trader A. Now, A holds 1 long contract and B holds 1 short contract , while C is out of the market , so the OI declines to 1.

This is how OI keeps changing. For every buyer, there is a seller and vice versa, which is why derivatives are called a zero sum game.

MONEY-WISE

A DOZEN GOOD FINANCIAL HABITS, OR RESOLUTIONS!

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

I have no clue whether resolutions work, but I guess people make them anyway. So here are some things that you can do..

Keep improving your financial literacy - reading books on Investing is much better than trying to 'learn' on Social media.

Look after your physical health - sadly there is not enough government nudge on improving your health. Improving your health is one good way to keep away from Covid and other contagious diseases. Fitter people have also recovered faster if they have been impacted.

People talking personal finance from just personal experience are shallow. It takes a lot of learning, education and personal experience to be able to teach personal finance.

Personal finance is easy But boring. See if you are up to doing it. If you are not, go to a financial planner - Registered Investment Adviser, I mean.

Improve your credit score -especially if your score is below 700 points.

Look for a better job! There is no point in staying on in a bad job and complaining about the rest of your life. It is time wasted, and a lot of energy lost in cribbing.

If you are a businessman start planning your exit from the business! One day you will have to exit the business anyway- being prepared for that is much better than leaving your family in the lurch and they will run from pillar to post trying to fix things which were anyway not broken!

Personal finance is a family activity - involve the kids too. When your children are about 14 years of age, they understand what you are doing. It is good to involve them and tell them why the moneys are invested, where it is invested, and how it can be accessed if you are not around. When you make an assumption that they will eventually find out, remember it could be a very expensive (and unnecessary) assumption.

Make a budget and stick to it - again remember this is an easy to give advice, but difficult to do. This is also a family activity and you should sit and do it as a family.

Have your expenses credit card and "borrowing" credit card separate. Make sure that even if you do borrow, all the payment is made in FULL on or before the due date

Automate your expense payment and your investing - this removes the need to think every month. It also means that you will not miss any monthly utility payment. Missing a payment like electricity payment can cause a lot of inconvenience and embarrassment.

Make your Will. Today. Preferably now. Many people do not understand the need for a will. Nomination alone is not enough in case of assets like land and flat - Real Estate in particular. The nominee is just holding the asset for giving it to the 'real' owners.

What it means is that your children can challenge your wife (nominee) in a worst case scenario. Also for selling the Real estate, she will need to prove that she has good title - nomination is not enough.

The list is endless, but I am restricting myself to a dozen good things to implement. No, one does not have to wait for 12 months to start implement thing. Just go ahead and make these things possible!

Happy 2022!

HDFC Life completes the acquisition of Exide Life

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

HDFC Life Insurance Company Ltd has completed the acquisition of Exide Life Insurance Company Limited on 1 January 2022 after it received all relevant regulatory approvals. From 1 January, Exide Life will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of HDFC Life. HDFC Life Insurance has acquired Exide Life through a cash pay-out of ₹726 crore and issuance of 8,70,22,222 equity shares at price of ₹685 per share to Exide Industries Limited. Post-acquisition, Exide Industries now holds 4.1% stake in HDFC Life. The process for merger of Exide Life into HDFC Life will be initiated shortly.

In a statement by HDFC Life, the company said Exide Life's agency-based distribution model, strong presence in South India, experience across tier 2 and tier 3 locations complement HDFC Life and will help expand its market and bolster its proprietary distribution. Vibha Padalkar, MD & CEO, HDFC Life said, "We recognise that the life insurance market in India is multi-faceted, where one solution might not fit all. Different distribution channels and a varied product mix help cater to different customer cohorts across the diverse Indian geography, and this acquisition is an important milestone towards our strategic objective of bringing more people into the fold of financial protection."

Exide Life Insurance has total AUM of over ₹18,000 crore (at the end of March 2021) and boasts of over 40,000 insurance advisors across 200 cities in the country. It had a total asset under management of ₹1.91 lakh crore at the end of second quarter of 2021-22.

Need for currency and the role of Cryptocurrencies

PANKAJ CHOPRA

WHEN human beings became civilised and there was a division of labour, people started trading goods that they produced with goods that they needed, using a barter system. However, a barter system is most inefficient as it requires negotiation for every trade that is done. Thereafter, empires started issuing some sort of currency in the form of seals, coins etc. These were pegged at a certain value and were taken at their determined 'face value' as they had the backing of the ruler.

Later on, precious metals specially Gold became the preferred mode of transaction. However, given the weighty nature of gold, receipts which were backed by gold became popular, where the persons storing the gold issued these receipts and anyone in possession of a receipt could go to the issuer and demand physical gold by submitting the receipt. This was called the 'Gold Standard'. After the World War II, 44 countries came together to form an International currency exchange system where each currency was pegged to the US Dollar, which in turn was pegged to the Global gold reserves. However, this system collapsed in 1971 and since then, countries are free to conduct their own monetary policies and their currencies appreciate and depreciate versus other international currencies based on the policies of that country.

Currency has two roles to play. One, it is a store of value (as was more evident when it was a gold standard) and second it is a medium of exchange. It stores value for the person who holds it and acts as the medium for exchange when a transaction is conducted using it.

What changes with Crypto currencies

So, what is different with crypto currencies and why is there such a hue and cry about the same. Firstly, there is absolutely no link between the crypto currencies being created and gold or any other asset. Thus, while the backing of currency notes today might not be 1:1 with gold, there are indeed gold reserves and the backing is given by the government through the central bank. In case of crypto, there is neither any asset correlation nor a government to back it.

The 'store of value' function has been artificially determined by listing these currencies on exchanges. The fact that someone is willing to buy the currency at a particular price has been the basis of valuation of the currency. However, is there someone willing to buy the entire supply at that price or just a few pieces? As we have noticed in the stock markets, at most times, the stock price does not correctly reflect the fundamental value of the company.

What we have is only demand and supply and that is determining the price today. Supply is being created by a complex process of mining for coins. The process has been controlled through a system of checks and balances, but for most of us, this is shrouded with mystery. Hypothetically, it's possible the process changes to become much easier, or many more people start to mine, and suddenly the supply increases. That would lead to a collapse in price.

Now, we have a store of value that is outside the regulated and government determined system. If this were to gain more popularity, then at some stage, the government would lose all control on the monetary system as the quantity and supply of crypto would play a crucial role in the financial system and the currency exchange rate. It is, therefore, not a surprise that governments are cautious about this system. Crypto currencies have become prevalent enough for governments not to ban them summarily, but they need to control it to be able to continue exercising dominance over the financial system.

In the other role of being a medium for exchange, again the unregulated nature of crypto currencies means that they can be transferred from one person to the other without any data and MIS being provided to the authorities. This is a major concern as it is presumed that crypto currencies have become a dominant medium for transactions which are illegal or prohibited. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that the government together finds a way to have a handle across all crypto currencies and their movements immediately.

As a crypto investor, you are just seeing the tip of the iceberg. No information is available on the current and future supply of the currency. The price increase has sucked in more and more people and it has today become fashionable to talk about and own crypto currencies, but we have seen similar trends at the height of stock market bull runs. People paint the most bullish pictures and take prices higher, until one day the markets crash.

One would therefore conclude that investing in crypto currencies is speculative in nature. You are only hoping that the price will go up, without having any basis for the same.

(Pankaj Chopra is the founder of Five Rivers Portfolio Managers)

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

RAMCOCEMENT

Current Price ₹1,007

Target Price ₹1,106

We estimate the company to record a volume CAGR of 10.7% over FY21-24E. The company's cost structure is set to improve further with the commissioning of WHRS. TRCL's net debt is expected to decline to ₹19.4 billion in FY24E vs. ₹29.3 billion in FY21.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*.

EXPRESS READ

Housing sales up 71% in 2021 in top 7 cities

New Delhi: Housing sales across top seven cities rose 71% year-on-year in 2021 to 2,36,530 units, but demand fell short of pre-Covid levels by 10%, according to Anarock. Housing sales stood at 1,38,350 units in 2020 and 2,61,358 units in the 2019 calendar year. Anarock attributed the rise in housing sales to very low interest rates on home loans, pent-up demand, surge in aspiration for home ownership, cut in stamp duty by a few states.

IPO craze to continue in March quarter

THE IPO rush is far from over and the primary market will see frenetic activity in the March 2020 quarter with nearly two dozen companies looking to collectively raise nearly ₹44,000 crore through initial share-sales, merchant bankers said.

Of the total fundraising, a large chunk will be garnered by technology-driven companies.

This comes after 63 companies mopped up a record ₹1.2 lakh crore in 2021 through initial public offerings (IPOs) even as the pandemic gloom shadowed the broader economy.

Apart from these firms, PowerGrid InvIT (Infrastructure Investment Trust) mopped up ₹7,735 crore through its IPO, while Brookfield India Real Estate Trust raised ₹3,800 crore through REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust).

Excessive liquidity, huge listing gains and increased retail investor participation spurred a persistent euphoria in the IPO market in 2021.

The firms that are expected to raise funds through their IPOs during the March quarter include hotel aggregator OYO (₹8,430 crore) and supply chain company Delhivery (₹7,460 crore), the merchant bankers said.

In addition, Adani Wilmar (₹4,500 crore), Emcure Pharmaceuticals (₹4,000 crore), Vedant Fashions (₹2,500 crore), Paradeep Phosphates (₹2,200 core), Medanta (₹2,000 crore) and Ixigo (₹1,800 crore) are expected to float their initial share-sales, they added.

Also, Skanray Technologies, Healthium Medtech, and Sahajanand Medical Technologies are likely to come out with their IPOs during the period under review, the merchant bankers said. *PTI*

Messi among 4 PSG players to test Covid +ve

Seven-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi is among four players in the Paris Saint-Germain squad to have tested positive for the coronavirus ahead of the team's French Cup game on Monday night. PSG added that one staff member also had Covid-19 in a statement on Saturday night. PSG will be playing at third-tier Vannes.

PACE PREDATORS ON THE PROWL

If they execute their plans to perfection, India's fast bowlers could add Johannesburg to the list of overseas cities where they have won a Test in last one year

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

Jasprit Bumrah (L) with Mohammed Siraj during the first Test at Centurion | AP

MELBOURNE. Brisbane. London. Centurion.

In the last year and a week, India have won five overseas Tests in four cities. All those wins have been orchestrated by a fast-bowling attack that's been relentless and in the face of the opposition. Think of India's pace unit as an apex predator. It lays the trap, waits patiently before ambushing it.

Why they have been so successful — apart from the depth — is the way they pick wickets. Once they smell blood, to keep the predator-prey analogy going, the only thing they leave behind is the rotting carcass. It's why they pick up wickets in clusters. Here's an example, or four, to drive home the point. At Melbourne, the hosts went from 124/3 to 155/6 (3/31 in 20 overs).

While a club attack could engineer a collapse against the current England set-up, at Nottingham, the hosts went from 138/3 to 183 (7/45 in 16 overs) in the first innings. At Lord's, 67/3 became 90/7 (4/23 in 16.3 overs) enroute a famous Test win.

What the pace attack did at Centurion was, in essence, what they had been doing throughout the year. In the South African first innings, one substantial partnership was sandwiched between two big clusters (4/32 in 12.5 overs and 3/41 in 12.4 overs).

Suffice to say it's hard to come up with a response against an attack that's so rounded it may have well been made in a laboratory. Jasprit Bumrah is the once-in-a-generation trickster who conjures magic with the new and old ball. He's the magician who's so good at taking wickets up front, breaking partnerships in the middle phase before cleaning up the tail.

There is Mohammed Shami, an analog bowler in the digital world in the sense that he can do everything without one specified role. New ball bowler? Tick. First-change? Tick. Find movement off the strip? Check. Set batters up? Okay. Bowl the odd bouncer? Tick. Bring the ball back in to hit the shave the bail? Yes, sir.

Mohammed Siraj is the attack dog of this team and that's not a bad thing. He was the lead bowler in just his third Test (Brisbane). What he does so well is channel his boundless energy towards getting a wicket off every ball. In that sense, he's like a golden retriever that's just been left out after being confined to a room for a few days. He's always there, asking questions of the batter.

The fourth man of the attack, at least in South Africa, is Shardul Thakur. What the Maharashtrian is good at is soft dismissals. Sure, he does offer teams a release shot now and then but he's mastered the art of taking wickets in all sorts of ways (caught at slip, caught on the leg-side when flicking uppishly, chopped on et. al) in his still very nascent career. It may come as a surprise but Thakur, in the last four matches, has picked up wickets in seven of the eight innings. In fact, in the matches he has figured in during that time, he's the second highest Indian wicket-taker (16 just behind Bumrah's 18). Therein lies the problem against a complete pace attack with each of them bringing something unique to the table.

Coach Rahul Dravid, who hasn't been with the side for long, posited that there was no great secret behind this but looking at video footage, planning and perfect execution of those plans. "We have looked at a lot of footage, we have done a lot of strategy and planning around that. We bowled beautiful lengths in the first innings, we were able to bowl slightly different lengths in the second innings depending on the wicket and the conditions. I think that's really down to the skill of the bowlers. The bowlers are able to change the kind of lengths they need to bowl mid innings depending on wicket and ball changes and you need to be able to do that. I thought we did that really well."

If the pacers can continue executing the plans, Johannesburg maybe added to the list of overseas cities where they have won a Test in the last 12 months and a bit.

History beckons for India

India started 2021 with a incredible series win in Australia. Can they replicate a similar start to 2022 in South Africa? A look at the key factors ahead of the second Test at Johannesburg...

PROTEAS' MIDDLE-ORDER WOES

With Quinton de Kock retiring, South Africa is likely to have an inexperienced middle-order comprising Keegan Petersen, Rassie van der Dussen, and Kyle Verreynne — with 16 Tests between them. They will be tested by the world-class Indian attack, and unless either of the youngsters rise to the occasion, the outcome could be very similar to the first Test.

PRESSURE ON BAVUMA

The way Temba Bavuma batted is one of the few positives for South Africa from the first Test. With a **103-ball 52**, followed by an unbeaten **35,** he did well to negate the Indian pacers. But for the hosts to keep the series alive, he will have to score big at Wanderers.

FULL CIRCLE FOR KOHLI

While the manner in which Virat Kohli got out at Centurion raised a lot of questions, the India skipper will be returning to a ground where he averages 77.50. He took the place of Sachin Tendulkar at No. 4 at Johannesburg in 2013 and it's been quite a journey since. As he returns to the venue, he'd be itching to put behind the ghosts of the last couple of years and end the century drought.

THUNDERSTORMS ON THE CARDS

India won the first Test at Centurion despite losing an entire day's of play to rain. The weather forecast for Johannesburg doesn't look good with the possibility of isolated and scattered thunderstorms on all five days. With the series on the line and the World Test Championship points available for the taking, both sides would be hoping that the rain stays away for the better part of the match.

2

In the five matches they have played at Johannesburg, India have won two, including the one in 2018 where the Indian attack rattled SA batters. They drew the other three matches.

Live on Star Sports Network 1:30PM

In terms of keeping the morale high, it's not been very difficult because it's been led by the skipper himself. Virat has been absolutely phenomenal over the over the last 20 days that we've been here. The way he's trained the way he's practised the way he's connected with the group. He has been phenomenal and I could not speak more highly of him.

Rahul Dravid on Virat Kohli's role in maintaining team morale amidst controversies

'De Kock's exit will not affect the team'

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @Chennai

AS South Africa's ace wicket-keeper batter Quinton de Kock announced his sudden retirement from Test cricket after his team lost the first match against India, the news sent shock waves around the world. Under transition, South Africa had banked on the 29-year-old to lend stability to the side and guide the youngsters, but his decision has put the Dean Elgar-led side in a spot of bother.

While acknowledging that the news came as a shock, Elgar insisted that the team would take the setback in its stride and strive hard to level the series against India. "Initially, I was pretty shocked. But sitting down with Quiney (de Kock), he explained his reasons. I respect and fully understand his decision. I don't think there will be any hangover on the players about his retirement," said Elgar ahead of the second Test.

De Kock had more than 3000 runs to his credit in the longest format of the game. He had the ability to accelerate as per the situation, especially while playing along with the lower-order. His absence will be felt by the South Africans.

Quinton de Kock announced his retirement after defeat at Centurion | AFP

"The responsibility for us is to carry and conduct ourselves as international players. We still have to be professional around this. Players respect the environment. We realise that we had a few setbacks in recent times and we need to obviously be clever around it and get over it. I don't see this (retirement) affecting the players,'' insisted the Proteas skipper.

Over the last few years, many players have quit playing Tests to prolong their international career. Some have quit international cricket to play in the various T20 leagues around the world. When asked if De Kock's decision will have an impact on the longest format, Elgar dismissed the possibility of it before adding, "his reasons are his reasons and it's his choice to retire. The game moves on when guys retire. One thing I've realised, the game doesn't stop for you, we have to get over it quickly and respect the position Quiney is in."

While spinners did not have much to do in the first Test, Elgar backed Keshav Maharaj to come good in the rest of the series. "I am a fan of a frontline spin bowler and Keshav put up his hand, he has played domestic game and Test series against Australia. I think he will retain his spot, he didn't have a horrible game," said Elgar.

"Sometimes, you go for horses for courses, but Keshav adapts to conditions. He is a smart and capable cricketer and his record speaks for himself. I feel left-arm spinners bowling to 10 right-handed batters in India is something we would like to utilise. From a stability point of view, he still has an extremely big role to play in this Test series."

Covid forces grappler Ravi to forgo Russia trip

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

TOKYO Olympics silver medallist Ravi Dahiya will not be able to train abroad like compatriot Bajrang Punia due to the rising number of Covid-19 cases worldwide, according to a Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) official. Bajrang had left for Russia last week for a 26-day pre-season training camp scheduled until January 21. Ravi was scheduled to join him but Vinod Tomar, WFI's assistant secretary, confirmed that the plan has been shelved.

"He was expected to leave for Moscow this week but the plan has been cancelled due to the surge in the coronavirus across the globe," he told this daily on Sunday. "Bajrang will complete his camp in Russia. Events are lined up for this year and our wrestlers are expected to compete. So far, the world governing body, United World Wrestling, has not intimated us about any postponement or cancellation," added Tomar.

The ministry of youth affairs and sports' Mission Olympics Cell (MOC) had approved Bajrang's trip at an overall cost of ₹ 7.53 lakh. Jitender and Anand Kumar have accompanied the wrestler as his sparring partner and physiotherapist, respectively. The pre-season camp was planned ahead of the international meets including UWW Ranking events in Italy and Turkey, the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham as well as the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

Sources close to Ravi informed that the Nahri grappler was also supposed to be accompanied by a couple of sparring partners for the Russia camp. A foreign coach was also scheduled to join the team in Moscow. At present, the 57kg wrestler is training at the Chhatrasal Stadium in New Delhi.

Medvedev & Berrettini suffer defeats

AFP @ Sydney

DANIIL MEDVEDEV and Matteo Berrettini both slumped to shock defeats in their opening matches of the season at the ATP Cup on Sunday, but there were no mistakes from Alexander Zverev. US Open champion Medvedev is leading a Russian team in Sydney depleted by injuries and Covid-19 as they look to defend the teams title won against Italy last year. But the World No 2 was stunned by Frenchman Ugo Humbert despite leading by a set and 3-0.

The Frenchman rallied to pull off a big upset 6-7 (5), 7-5, 7-6 (2).

With fifth-ranked Andrey Rublev missing after contracting coronavirus at an Abu Dhabi exhibition last month, unheralded Roman Safiullin was drafted in as Russia's second singles player. He saved 15 of 19 break points to earn a 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 win over France's Arthur Rinderknech to set the stage for Medvedev, who could be the top seed at this month's Australian Open if defending champion Novak Djokovic fails to show up.

The tie went to a deciding doubles rubber with Medvedev backing up with Safiullin to win and seal the points.

Russia are in a tough group that also includes hosts Australia and 2021 runner-up Italy, led by World No 7 Berrettini, who was also beaten, crashing to 34th-ranked Alex de Minaur 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Goa rally to earn a point vs Blasters

MARTIN JOSEPH @Kochi

IT was a wild night of football at the Tilak Maidan in Vasco which included everything from breathtaking goals to refereeing decisions that were questionable, to say the least.

Prior to the game, Blasters coach Ivan Vukomanovic had said that anyone can beat anyone in the ISL to demonstrate just how competitive it can get. At the end of it all, Kerala Blasters found themselves hanging onto a 2-2 draw against FC Goa, who gave a good account of themselves under Derrick Pereira.

Blasters were expected to dominate this game and they expectedly started on the front foot. Derrick's team was getting dragged all over the place as they are still getting used to the tactics and philosophy of the Goan coach after the departure of Juan Ferrando. Blasters created the first chance as early as the sixth minute when Sahal

Kerala's Adrian Luna (L) rejoices after scoring against Goa on Sunday | ISL

Abdul Samad was through on goal but he ended up dragging his shot wide. They kept putting the pressure on the Goan defence and got their reward in the tenth time. Adrian Luna whipped in a corner which was headed past Dheeraj Singh by Jeakson. It was only the start of what was going to be a topsy-turvy encounter. At one point, it looked like Vukomanovic's side was going to run away with the tie when Luna struck a stunning goal. However, Goa didn't throw in the towel and started to slowly claw their way back into the game. They were managing to keep the ball a little more and cut open Blasters in the 24th minute when Jorge Ortiz slammed home a cutback from Saviour Gama.

Pereira's side didn't sit back and took the game to Blasters and went onto equalise when Edu Bedia caught the entire opposition defence napping from a set-piece. The Goa captain whipped in a corner which sailed straight past the goalkeeper as the game was thrown open and Blasters' unbeaten run was in danger of being broken. If the sublime goals were the talking points till that point, a few refereeing decisions started to overshadow and the standard of refereeing in the league came into question again. Drama unfolded five minutes before half-time when Glan Martins and Jorge Diaz got into a scuffle and the referee accidentally booked Marko Leskovic.

In the second half, the referee was in the spotlight again when Ortiz was booked for a dive inside the box when it seemed obvious that there was clear contact from Bijoy on the attacker. It turned out to be a physical battle with a lot of challenges flying in as the chances dried up and the two ended up splitting the points.

EXPRESS READ

Eng coach Silverwood tests positive for Covid

MELBOURNE: Under-fire England head coach Chris Silverwood has tested positive for COVID-19 while quarantining here with his family but he is expected to join the team ahead of the fifth Ashes Test in Hobart. Silverwood was due to miss the fourth Test against England starting in Sydney on Wednesday after he was forced into isolation when a family member tested positive for Covid-19.

Joy for Bangladesh on Day 2 against Kiwis

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: An unbeaten 70 by Mahmudul Hasan Joy, backed by 64 from Najman Hossain Shanto, put Bangladesh in a strong position at stumps on day two of the first Test against New Zealand here. The tourists were 175 for two at the close of play, trailing Kiwis by 153 runs.

McGrath contracts Covid days before Pink Test

SYDNEY: Australian legend Glenn McGrath has tested positive for Covid days before the Pink Test, played in memory of hiswife Jane, who died of breast cancer, and is used as a fundraiser to support patients suffering from the disease. Australia's opponent in the Pink Test will be England as part of the Ashes series.

Russian, Czech hockey teams removed from flight

CALGARY (CANADA): Members of the Russian and Czech Republic world junior hockey teams were removed from a New Year's Eve flight from Calgary to Frankfurt, Germany, with fellow passengers saying the Russian squad caused a disturbance by smoking and refusing to wear masks. Calgary Police said in a statement Saturday that its Airport Unit officers responded at 5:45 p.m.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Real's 15-game unbeaten run ended by gutsy Getafe

AFP @Madrid

REAL MADRID'S 15-game unbeaten run came to an end on Sunday as they suffered a shock 1-0 loss at relegation-battling Getafe in La Liga.

Madrid's surprise defeat gives fresh hope to the beleaguered chasing pack in Spain, after Eder Militao's early error allowed Enes Unal to score the winner at the Coliseum Alfonso Perez. Getafe stay 16th after recording only their fourth league victory of the season.

Madrid have taken command of the Spanish title race after a superb run of form that included 10 consecutive wins and 15 matches without defeat, their last loss coming at Espanyol on October 3.

But Carlo Ancelotti's side were woefully out of sorts in their first outing of 2022 and, aside from a brief spell in the first half, struggled really even to threaten the Getafe goal.

Eden Hazard came on at half-time but again failed to shake his team into life while Karim Benzema was unusually quiet up front. Madrid missed the penetration of Vinicius Junior, who was absent after testing positive for Covid-19.

Real Madrid's Karim Benzema (foreground) in action against Getafe on Sunday | AP

Ancelotti's mood was summed up in the second half when the deflated Italian on the bench slumped over and dropped his head after a Toni Kroos free-kick drifted harmlessly out of play. Getafe lost eight games in a row earlier in the season but came in on the back of an upturn in form under Quique Sanchez Flores, having gone five games unbeaten, including a pair of wins over Cadiz and Osasuna.

Chelsea hold Liverpool

Chelsea and Liverpool played out a thrilling draw (2-2) in the Premier League at Stamford Bridge. Liverpool were 2-0 up after goals from Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah. But Chelsea fought back with Mateo Kovaviv and Christian Pulisic on the scoresheet. After 21 games, Chelsea are now 10 points behind leaders Man City. Liverpool are 11 points behind City with a game in hand.

Results: Brentford **2-1** Aston Villa; Everton **2-3** Brighton; Leeds United **3-1** Burnley; Chelsea **2-2** Liverpool.

A herd of endangered wild elephants are rampaging through a safari park in Bangladesh, with officials warning on Sunday that the creatures were acting aggressively and posed a serious safety threat. The herd of at least 13 elephants knocked down a seven-foot concrete wall to break into the Safari Park

Indonesia bans coal exports in January

ENERGY

JAKARTA: Indonesia, the world's biggest exporter of coal used in electricity generation, on Saturday said it has banned January exports of the fuel in a move aimed at safeguarding its domestic power supply.

Rising demand for electricity in the country risks widespread blackouts unless more supplies are diverted to power stations, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources said.

Indonesia exports the majority of its coal but mandates that producers must set aside minimum amounts to supply the nation's power plants.

The decision comes amid a surging demand from a post-pandemic growth in the world.

EXFILE • SPACE

WEAVING A 'WEBB' OF COSMIC HISTORY

What if we could take a peek into the very-first stars and galaxies formed around 13.5 billion years ago? The James Webb Space Telescope aims to do just that. The ultraviolet and visible lights that were emitted by the first luminous objects have been stretched or redshifted by the universe's expansion and can only be captured by a powerful infrared camera such as the one on the Webb. We take a look at the telescope that aims to map every phase of our cosmic history—from within our solar system and also from the most distant observable galaxies

CHRISTMAS DAY LAUNCH

An Ariane 5 rocket blasted off with the infrared telescope on 25 December 2021 from a launch base in French Guiana

THE VOYAGE

The telescope, weighing more than **1,400 pounds (635 kgs),** will travel a distance of **1.5 million** km from the Earth—about four times the distance between the Earth and the Moon—before it reaches Lagrange point **(L2)** to orbit the Sun

The L2 point ensures that the telescope is in constant alignment with the Earth. After a 27-minute space ride powered by Ariane 5, Webb will take 13 days to completely unfurl to the size of a tennis court

More than a hundred release mechanisms need to work—perfectly—in order for the telescope to succeed. From the L2 point, Webb will gaze into the epoch where the very first stars and galaxies were formed—a part of space and time never seen before

THE WORTHY SUCCESSOR

Webb is a superior successor to the 30-year-old ageing Hubble and the retired Spitzer space telescope

JOINT EFFORT

Webb is an international collaboration between NASA, European Space Agency (ESA) and the Canadian Space Agency

$10 BILLION

The cost of the James Webb Space Telescope

1+6

Webb will take one month to reach L2 and another six months before its infrared eyes become fully operational

Origami style

The enormous mirror and sunshield of Webb were folded in Origami style to fit into the Ariane rocket

Protecting the telescope is the wispy, five-layered sunshield, vital for keeping the light-gathering mirror and heat-sensing infrared detectors at subzero temperatures

10 YEAR LIFE

NASA is shooting for 10 years of operational life from Webb. Engineers deliberately left the fuel tank accessible for a top-off by visiting spacecraft, if and when such technology becomes available

WHO IS JAMES WEBB?

James E Webb was the man who oversaw NASA through its formative years in the 1960s and is popularly known for the Apollo moon programme

Omicron is not a natural vaccine: experts

This notion may not augur well for a country like India where malnourishment, pollution and diabetes are rampant

COVID

NEW DELHI: The notion that Omicron is a natural vaccine is a "dangerous idea" spread by irresponsible people who don't take into account "long Covid" about which very little is understood, experts have said.

The Omicron variant of Covid-19, which is said to be much more infectious than the other variants, is, however, causing milder infections, less hospitalisation and deaths which is leading to the notion that it can act as a natural vaccine.

Recently, a Maharashtra health official also claimed that Omicron will act as a natural vaccine and may help in COVID-19's progression towards the endemic stage.

Noted virologist Shahid Jameel said the notion that Omicron is a natural vaccine is a dangerous idea spread by irresponsible people.

"It breeds complacency and is rooted more in pandemic fatigue and the inability to do more, than in evidence available at this time," he told *PTI*.

Jameel, the former head of the advisory group to the Indian SARS-COV-2 Genomics Consortia (INASACOG), said those who advocate this don't take into account "long Covid" about which very little is understood.

"Especially in India, where malnutrition, air pollution and diabetes are rampant, to willingly let people be exposed to a virus about which you understand little is not good science and public health," he said.

Giridhara R Babu, professor and the Head of Lifecourse Epidemiology at the Public Health Foundation of India, said however mild Omicron is, it is not a vaccine. "There are deaths and hospitalisations due to this variant. Stay away from misinformation. Compared to vaccination, natural infection cannot protect the population (against death or hospitalisation) against any variant (Alpha, Beta, Gamma or Delta). Proponents of herd immunity are saying it again that Omicron would provide herd immunity. Evidence matters, not opinions," he said.

What is Florona? A new Covid variant?

■ **Is it a new strain of Coronavirus?**
It is not a new variant of the virus but the occurrence of flu and Sars-Cov-2 simultaneously. Florona has been in news after it was first detected in a pregnant woman in Israel

■ **How does Florona spread?**
It could spread from one person to another before the symptoms might start to appear. People in close contact with an infected person and those not maintaining social distancing of six feet are particularly vulnerable

■ **Are such twindemics common?**
Experts point that coinfections of viruses are not uncommon in nature and from the start of the pandemic there were fears of a twindemic of Covid and influenza. However, a twindemic was not reported until recently

■ **What are the symptoms of Florona?**
The coinfection has similar symptoms to Covid; it includes, a runny nose, sore throat, fever, etc. The symptoms could be mild, severe or absent for different people

■ **What causes worry?**
A report on *Nature* showed that an influenza infection could promote the infectivity of Sars-Cov-2 and could lead to more severe lung damage

■ **What is Delmicron?**
Like Florona, Delmicron is also not a new strain. It is the attack of Delta and Omicron together. Experts say that Delmicron could have caused a surge in EU and the US

China hints at positive signs in the city of Xi'an

New Covid-19 cases in the locked-down Chinese city of Xi'an fell to their lowest in a week, health officials said on Sunday, as residents face their 11th day under strict home confinement. China has followed a "zero Covid" approach involving tight border restrictions and swift, targeted lockdowns since the virus first surfaced in a central city in late 2019—but this strategy has been put under pressure in recent weeks with a number of local outbreaks and cases remaining stubbornly high

France & England not for immediate curbs

France announced an easing of Covid restrictions from Monday and Britain's health minister said curbs were an "absolute last resort", as governments face tough choices between controlling the virus and keeping economies open. Europe crossed 100 million known cases on Saturday, and governments there are keen to prevent healthcare systems from becoming overwhelmed by the pandemic while also avoiding punishing restrictions on the people

FACT OF THE MATTER

50% less trash in Rio on Jan 1

ENVIRONMENT

Between the pandemic and the rainy weather, it was a muted New Year's celebration on Rio de Janeiro's famed Copacabana beach, but there was a silver lining on Saturday: 50 % less garbage to collect. The iconic Brazilian beach city's sanitation service, COMLURB, said it had picked up 320 tonnes of trash from New Year's Eve celebrations, less than half the annual average of 724.2 tonnes from 2018 to 2020. That included 167 tonnes in Copacabana following a 16-minute fireworks display over the beach, down from a pre-pandemic average of 340.6 tonnes. "We're going to have the beaches and seaside clean much earlier than usual," said COMLURB head Flavio Lopes, as nearly 5,000 trash collectors finished the clean-up job by 9:00 am. After canceling its New Year's Eve festivities last year because of Covid-19, Rio resumed a low-key version this year, encouraging revelers to stay close to home.

Danish flights to go green

ENERGY

Denmark's government has set an ambitious target of making all Danish domestic flights green by 2030, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said Saturday. "Will it be difficult? Yes. Can it be done? Yes, I think so. We're already on it. Talented researchers and businesses are working on solutions," Frederiksen said in her New Year's Day address to the nation. "If we succeed, it will be a green breakthrough. Not just for Denmark, but the whole world," she said. Frederiksen provided no details about how the lofty goal would be accomplished, but did say her government was open to the introduction of a tax on carbon dioxide gas emissions, after having previously been opposed. The aviation industry is one of the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases, and airlines are developing new and cleaner technologies, including those that reduce fuel use and emissions.

EU bid to label gas, N-energy as green

ENERGY

BRUSSELS: The European Union is planning to label energy from nuclear power and natural gas as "green" sources for investment despite internal disagreement over whether they truly qualify as sustainable options.

The proposal, seen by *AFP* on Saturday, aims to support the 27-nation bloc's shift towards a carbon-neutral future and gild its credentials as a global standard-setter for fighting climate change.

But the fact the European Commission quietly distributed the text to member states late Friday, in the final hours of 2021 after the much-delayed document had been twice promised earlier in the year, highlighted the rocky road to draft it.

If a majority of member states back it, then it will become an EU law, coming into effect from 2023.

The commission confirmed on Saturday that it has started consulting with member states on the proposal where it covers nuclear and gas energy.

"The activities covered in this complementary Delegated Act would accelerate the phase out of more harmful sources, such as coal, and in moving us towards a more low-carbon greener energy mix," it said.

It said it "considers there is a role for natural gas and nuclear as a means to facilitate the transition towards a predominantly renewable-based future".

France has led the charge for nuclear power—its main energy source—to be included, despite robust opposition from Austria and scepticism from Germany, which is in the process of shutting all its nuclear plants.

Germany's Environment Minister Steffi Lemke told German media group Funke on Saturday that including gas and nuclear would be "a mistake", arguing that atomic power "can lead to devastating environmental catastrophes".

Austrian Environment Minister Leonore Gewessler also criticised the project, denouncing nuclear power as "an energy of the past" that was "too expensive and too slow" to combat climate change.

Fossil-reliant countries in the EU's east and south have defended the use of natural gas, at least as a transitional source, even though it still produces significant greenhouse emissions. "It is necessary to recognise that the fossil gas and nuclear energy sectors can contribute to the decarbonisation of the Union's economy," the commission proposal says.

It added that, for nuclear power, appropriate measures should be put in place for radioactive waste management and disposal.

FLU TOLL

Workers move dead cranes in the Hula Lake in northern Israel on Sunday. Bird flu has killed thousands of migratory cranes and threatens other animals amid what authorities say is the deadliest wildlife disaster in the nation's history | AP

5G wireless rollout delayed in US

TECHNOLOGY

US authorities have asked telecom operators AT&T and Verizon to delay for up to two weeks their already postponed rollout of 5G networks amid uncertainty about interference with vital flight safety equipment. The two companies said on Saturday that they are reviewing the request. The US rollout of the high-speed mobile broadband technology had been set for December 5, but was delayed to January 5 after aerospace giants Airbus and Boeing raised concerns about potential interference with the devices planes use to measure altitude. US Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and the head of the Federal Aviation Administration, Steve Dickson, asked for the latest delay in a letter sent on Friday to AT&T and Verizon. The letter asked the companies to "continue to pause introducing commercial C-Band service" —the frequency range used for 5G—"for an additional short period of no more than two weeks beyond the currently scheduled deployment date of January 5."

SKY WATCH

A year of achievements for Hanle observatory in Ladakh

SPACE

NEW DELHI: With several achievements such as faster method of predicting space weather under its belt under its dome in 2021, the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) located at Hanle near Leh in Ladakh has emerged as one of the promising observatory sites globally.

The obvious advantages of more clear nights, minimal light pollution, background aerosol concentration, extremely dry atmospheric condition and no interruption by monsoon are among the reasons that have made the Hanle Observatory a popular and a promising site belonging to Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru.

Among its achievements are: "A faster method of predicting space weather has been identified in a type of solar radio bursts observed using the global network of solar radio telescopes called CALLISTO; a clue to the mystery behind the high abundance of Lithium has been traced. An active galaxy found in a very bright state with 10 times more X-ray emission than normal, equivalent to more than 10 trillion of the Sun, and located five billion light years away could help probe how particles behave under intense gravity and acceleration to the speed of light." An algorithm that can increase the accuracy of data from exoplanets by reducing the contamination by the Earth's atmosphere and the disturbances due to instrumental effects and other factors has been developed while a new method to understand the atmosphere of extrasolar planets has been found.

"Besides, we now have clues to the mystery of solar flares and coronal mass ejections in regions on the Sun with disturbed magnetic fields that can help improve solar weather predictions," said a release.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

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03.01.2022
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Mars exploration

NASA' s Mars Exploration Rover Spirit landed on Mars to study the chemical and physical composition of the planet's surface on this day in 2004

THE LANDING

Spirit was still sitting in its landing shell when it spotted the first possible sign of water in the distance: carbonate, which often forms in wet environments

HISTORY OF SPIRIT ROVER

The Spirit rover weighing 185 kgs is almost the size of a golf cart. It lasted 20 times longer than its original design until it concluded its mission in 2010

WHAT IT FOUND

In Gusev crater, the Spirit rover found evidence for both past and present water cycles. The images were crisp and clear to the team members

Prajwal and Pannaga to tie-up for two projects

PG 4

ODE TO TRADITION

For her milestone collection, designer Latha Puttanna draws inspiration from rangoli, the ancient floor art that adorns the entrance of every South Indian household

MONIKA MONALISA

IN the fast-paced city life of Bengaluru, designer Latha Puttanna prefers taking things in the slow lane. This preference for slow life is reflected in her designs. Interestingly, the year '22 holds a special place as her label completes 30 years in business. And to celebrate the milestone, she has come out with her latest collection called Rangoli.

Inspired from the south Indian rangoli, a common floor art drawn at the entrance of every house, this collection shows how simple designs can work wonders. "The rangolis come together with a series of dots...they are so simple but give such a wonderful final design," says Puttanna, adding, "Rangoli signifies prosperity and joy. That's what I want to offer people in my collection."

The collection has heavy usage of pink, lilac and peach. "I personally don't own many outfits in these shades, but these are colours that have traditionally ruled a woman's closet. I have also used a lot of Rajasthani Gotta work (a type of Indian embroidery) which is the first time I am trying out in my collection," says Puttanna, adding that she has also tried to keep the prices affordable (₹7,000-11,000).

Latha Puttanna

The Rangoli collection

In a career spanning three decades, she has always worked with Indian fabrics. Her first show was in 1992 with just 100 pieces and there was no stopping after that. "Fashion designing was a profession that was like a hobby that turned into a profession. This was without any formal training. My muse was Indian handlooms which are very versatile in nature. Since I was good at illustration, it worked out well," says Puttanna, who decided to take it seriously after family and friends started appreciating her designs.

Calling the '90s a golden period for designs, she says, "That's the time when masters or the tailors used to work out of passion rather than look at it as a profession. There was no pressure of monetising work. This gave a lot of time and space for artistes to be at his/her creative best," she says.

For her collections, which have been worn by actors like Taapsee Pannu, Puttanna has been careful about usage of fabric. "Sustainability is quite a term now but I have been practising it early-on. My collections were planned in such a way that there was no surplus and no wastage of fabric. If any pieces are left behind, we customise it into something else," adds Puttanna.

It might have been thirty years in the field of fashion designing, but Puttanna believes she has had the most important learning during this pandemic. "Sometimes, you should just enjoy the simple joys of life and the art of giving," she adds.

GRUB HUB

Debolina Ray, a Bengaluru-based food & travel blogger who runs a blog called She Knows Grub, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE*. The first prize winner this week will win a complimentary voucher worth ₹1,500 from The Circus Canteen **

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1)Starfruit or Carambola 2)Nanjangud rasabalehannu 3)Rambutan

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Vijay Raghavan
2. Bhoomika
3. Mayur

***Conditions apply**

GOING THE OLD SCHOOL WAY

P3

CITY READ

Baby shower to be organised

Dr Vidya Bhat, medical director, Radhakrishna Foundation in association with Katte Sathya Foundation is organising a baby shower, Janani, for pregnant women at BBMP maternity hospital of NR Colony. The event will be attended by Kannada actor Sudha Rani, MLA Ravi Subramanya, ex-mayor B S Satyanarayana among others. The event will take place on January 4, 9:30 am at Dr C Ashwath Kala Bhavana auditorium, Basavangudi.

New Year Bash

After winning the first test at South Africa, the Indian cricket team had all the more reasons to keep their New Year celebrations upbeat. RCB player Virat Kohli posted a picture on social media, sharing glimpses of the celebrations in South Africa, with Bengaluru boy Rahul Dravid also joining the boys in enjoying the moment. "We hope everyone is blessed with joy and happiness this new year. We send you our love and positivity (sic)," Kohli said. Check out the pictures on the cricketer's Insta handle.

'Paw'sitive wishes

Music composer Raghu Dixit expressed his new year wishes to his fans along with his favourite 'Chikki'. Taking it to social media, he said, "Happiest New Year to you all from me and Chikki! Chikki sure knows how to smile and face it all! Wishing you all great health, happiness and peace. Nothing else matters God Bless you all (sic)."

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Bangalore - 560 020
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info@set.edu.in / admin@set.edu.in www.set.edu.in
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SCHOOLS
- Seshadripuram Sthree Samaja Middle School, Seshadripuram
- Seshadripuram High School, Seshadripuram
- Seshadripuram English Higher Primary School, Kumara Park
- Seshadripuram English High School, Kumara Park
- Seshadripuram High School, Yelahanka
- Seshadripuram Public School, Yelahanka
- Seshadripuram Higher Primary School, Yelahanka
- Seshadripuram Pre-Primary School, Yelahanka
- Seshadripuram School, Geddalahalli, Tumakuru

PRE UNIVERSITY
- Seshadripuram Pre-University College, (Aided), Seshadripuram
- Seshadripuram Evening Pre- University College, Seshadripuram
- Seshadripuram Composite Pre-University College, Seshadripuram
- Seshadripuram Pre-University College, Yelahanka
- Seshadripuram Independent Pre-University College, Magadi Road
- Seshadripuram Pre-University College, Kengeri
- Seshadripuram Pre-University College, Mysore
- Seshadripuram Pre University College, Veerasagara Layout,Tumakuru

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS
- Seshadripuram Academy for Global Excellence, Yelahanka
- (Collaborative programs with UK & USA Universities)

UNDER GRADUATE
- Seshadripuram College, Seshadripuram
- Seshadripuram Evening Degree College, Seshadripuram
- Seshadripuram Institute of Commerce and Management, Seshadripuram
- Seshadripuram First Grade College, Yelahanka
- Seshadripuram Commerce College, Magadi Road
- Seshadripuram Academy of Business Studies, Kengeri
- Seshadripuram Degree College, Mysore
- Seshadripuram College, Veerasagara Layout,Tumakuru
- Seshadripuram Teachers' Training Institute, Tumakuru

LAW
- Seshadripuram Law College, Seshadripuram

POST GRADUATE
- P.G. Dept. of Commerce and Management, Seshadripuram – M.Com
- P.G. Dept. of Commerce and Management, Yelahanka – M.Com
- Seshadripuram Institute of Management Studies, Yelahanka – M.B.A.

RESEARCH
- Seshadripuram Research Foundation, Yelahanka
- Seshadripuram Institute of Advanced Studies & Research, Yelahanka

HOSTEL
- Seshadripuram Women Hostel, Yelahanka

CAMPUSES
Seshadripuram – Yelahanka – Kengeri - Magadi Road- Mysore – Tumkur- Mandya

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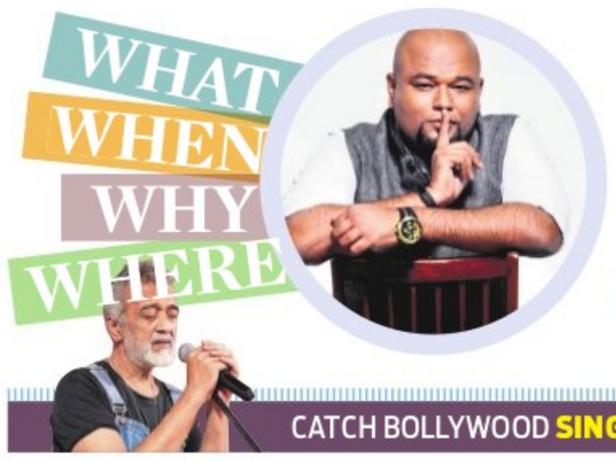


COMEDY UNPLUGGED

'Please Interrupt Me' is a concept where the audience can do whatever they wish and comedian Nishant Tanwar asks you to interrupt. This will be held at multiple venues in the city.
When: Jan 8-9
Details: bookmyshow.com

JAM SESSION

Looking for a fun musical evening after a hectic day? Lahe Lahe hostes a musical jam every Wednesday where musical aficionados come and jam together.
When: Till Feb 6
Details: bookmyshow.com

TRAVEL PAINTINGS

Manjushree Khaitan Foundation is showcasing Travel Chronicles, watercolour paintings by Nirupam Konwar at MKF Museum of Art, Lavelle Road. **When:** Jan 8-23 **Details:** 9019276294

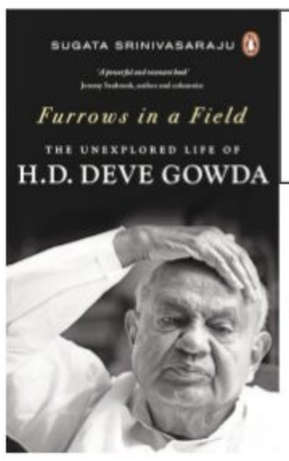
DIGITAL ART FESTIVAL

The 10th edition of Attakkalari India Biennial opens with a show 'Sthavara - Jangama' at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur.
Tickets: ₹300
When: Jan 8
Details: bookmyshow.com

CATCH BOLLYWOOD **SINGER LUCKY ALI** PERFORM LIVE AT UB CITY | **WHEN:** JAN 16 | **DETAILS:** INSIDER.IN

Musical Concert

An evening filled with music of different genres from renowned singers, Saarya Creations invites all to 'Raagadhare' at Gayana Samaja, Basavanagudi. This event is in support of singers.
When: Jan 8
Details: bookmyshow.com



Book Conversation

Author of *Furrows in a Field: The Unexplored Life of HD Deve Gowda*, Sugata Srinivasaraju, will be at Bookworms, Church Street. She will talk about the book and sign the former Prime Minister's portrait and release thematic postcards and bookmarks on his biography.
When: Jan 3, 6 pm **Details:** 080 4091 3205

Lettuce Compost

Learn how to compost at home through this 90-minute workshop with Shipra Agarwal and Shaun Dourado. Pick up the different types of composting, how it really works and simple tips to keep in mind for beginners.
When: Jan 8
Details: insider.in

PAPER WORK

Explore the world of paper craft and origami and learn more about the craft ideas. This will help children develop fine motor skills, brain development and improve concentration level.
When: Till Jan 30
Details: bookmyshow.com

Music Calling

Immerse yourself in India's rich musical heritage at Indian Music Experience Museum. It features a sound garden and gallery with musical instruments, storyboards, mini-theatres and more.
When: Ongoing **Details:** bookmyshow.com

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

PRAWN COCONUT CURRY

INGREDIENTS

- **Prawn:** 250 g ■ **Mustard oil**
- **Coconut milk** ■ **Onion:** 1
- **Onion paste:** 2 tbsp
- **Tomato:** 1, chopped
- **Turmeric powder:** 1 tsp
- **Red chilli powder:** 1 tsp
- **Cumin powder:** 1/2 tsp
- **Green cardamom:** 3
- **Cloves:** 3 ■ **Cinnamon:** 1 inch stick
- **Salt, Sugar, Garam masala**

METHOD

- Marinate the prawns with turmeric and salt. Shallow-fry them. In a pan, add oil and garam masala. Add onion and tomato and fry until translucent.
- Add onion paste, ginger-garlic paste, salt, turmeric, chilli powder, and cumin powder and mix well for 10 minutes.
- Pour coconut milk and stir. When it starts to boil, add prawns and cover the pan. Cook on low flame for 5-7 minutes.
- Sprinkle garam masala and serve hot.

— Sarmistha Halder, New Delhi

SOUND BOARD

NOMENCLATURE
Host Brandon Henderson discusses the origin, evolution, and alternative meanings of words chosen by weekly guests including comedians, actors, and musicians.
- On Gaana

CRIME KAHANIYAN
On this Spotify original, listen to some thrilling, sensational, and shocking crime stories from India. Tune in to get your hands on these heart-rending thriller stories in Hindi.
- On Spotify

TUMNE KISI SE KABHI PYAAR KIYA HAI
Tumne Kisi Se Kabhi Pyaar Kiya Hai has recently dropped its season 2. Co-produced by creator Lakshya Datta and JioSaavn Originals, the podcast has over 1.3 million streams. The format focuses on falling out of love and finding it again.
- On JioSaavn

THE TASTES OF INDIA
A podcast that has been running for years now, The Tastes of India continues to release a new episode weekly. The bilingual cooking show focuses on quick and tasty Indian recipes. Listen and add these delicious ones to your cookbook.
- On Spotify

I HEAR YOU
Narrated by Aahana Kumar, this thriller podcast takes you into the world of Delhi Special Bureau's ace detective, Priyamvada Parmar, whose life changes after a brutal car crash. While she lost her husband in the crash, she also gained the power to hear some supernatural noise that no one can. The noises help her to uncover some heinous crimes and even uncover certain hidden truths of her life.
- On Spotify

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

RUSTUM
ACP Abhishek Bhargav is determined to find the culprits behind the death of his friend, DCP Bharath. His investigation takes him to Bangalore, where he uncovers revelations of an organ trade mafia.
- Cast: Sakshi Chaudhary, Shivarajkumar, Shraddha Srinath, Vivek Oberoi

LOVE MOCKTAIL
After rescuing a woman, Adi reminisces about his love life and tells her about all the heartbreaks he endured in his quest to find his true love.
- Cast: Milana Nagaraj, Kushi, Darling Krishna, Amrutha Iyengar

SANGOLLI RAYANNA
Sangolli Rayanna, the army chief of the Kingdom of Kittur and a freedom fighter, revolts against the British in a bid to oust them from the country.
- Cast: Darshan Thoogudeepa, Jaya Prada, Shashikumar, Nikita Thukral

KURUKSHETRA
After losing to the Kauravas in a gamble, the Pandavas go into exile and endure hardship for a number of years. Upon their return, conflict arises over the dynastic succession leading to a war.
- Cast: Nikhil Gowda, Sneha, V Ravichandran, Ambareesh

ARJUN
Police officer Arjun has strong moral values and lets criminals off with a warning. But he is in a fix when he learns that his father is paying petty criminals to help him catch big criminals.
- Cast: Darshan Thoogudeepa, Suman, Meera Chopra

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 A FREE AND FAIR INTERNET BENEFITS EVERYONE BY PRISCILLA CHOMBA-KINYWA
In the digital age, reliance on the Internet is so common and seems ubiquitous, yet billions of people worldwide still go without it. Digital transformation strategist Priscilla Chomba-Kinywa advocates for collective access to the opportunities and potential the internet provides, underscoring the necessity of free and fair digital rights for all.

2 4 WAYS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CHANGED THE WAY WE SLEEP BY MATT WALKER
Have you been having weird dreams lately? For many people, that's just one of the ways the COVID-19 pandemic has altered their sleeping habits, says sleep scientist Matt Walker. From when to how well we're sleeping, this pandemic may have shaken up bedtime for good.

3 HOW TO ESCAPE THE CYNICISM TRAP BY JAMIL ZAKI
Some days, it's hard to be optimistic. But cynicism -- the idea that people are inherently selfish, greedy and dishonest -- is making humanity lonelier and more divided, says psychologist Jamil Zaki. Presenting fascinating research on cooperation, empathy and trust, Zaki shows us how to break out of the cynicism trap.

4 USE YOUR VOICE, VOTE AND WALLET FOR CLIMATE ACTION BY HALLA TOMASDOTTIR
In conversation with TEDWomen curator Pat Mitchell, Icelandic presidential candidate Halla Tómasdóttir, who recently got back from the COP26 UN climate conference, urges us to recognise our power and to use our voice, vote and wallet to catalyse meaningful climate action.

5 A KING COBRA BITE — AND A SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY BY GOWRI SHANKAR
Recounting his near-death experience after being bitten by one of these majestic yet deadly king cobra, conservationist and TED Fellow Gowri Shankar shares the epiphany he had when the antivenom failed: there's more than one unique species of king cobra.

FIT BIT

MAHA BANDHA
(THE GREAT LOCK)

In Sanskrit, maha means 'great' and bandha means 'lock' or 'seal.' It's an advanced yogic practice that involves practicing three major bandhas together: mula, uddiyana and jalandhara bandhas. Bandhas are performed to channel prana in the body. It can be referred as triple lock or supreme lock. To achieve this bandha, one must perform the three bandhas together, beginning with Jalandhara Bandha (chin lock), followed by Uddiyana Bandha (abdominal lock) and, finally, Mula Bandha (root lock).

STEPS

- Start in a meditative posture like Padmasana or Siddhasana. If uncomfortable, try Sukhasana.
- Keep the spine erect. Place both palms on your knees. Relax the body and stay of your breaths.
- Take slow and deep breaths. After inhalation, exhale forcefully moving all the breath out completely. Hold the breath outside.
- Now apply Jalandhara, Uddiyana and Mula bandha one after the another in the same order as mentioned. There must be no pause in between.
- Retain the breath or locks for as long as it feels comfortable.
- Take a slow inhalation after bringing the head in upright position. One round completes here.
- Relax the whole body taking easy breaths. Keep your eyes shut. Once the breath comes back to its normal rhythm, you are ready to practise again.
- Practise two times initially. As you begin to feel more efficient in your practice, gradually add one more round till you reach five rounds.
- Focus or rotate your physical awareness in the areas of the three locks, ie., throat, abdomen and perineum. Spiritually you need to focus on Vishuddhi (Throat), Manipura (Abdomen) or Muladhara (Perineum) Chakras. Rotate your focus on each of the chakras.

BENEFITS

- Strengthens the autonomic nervous system and pelvic region.
- Supports intestinal function, promotes immunity, regulates thyroid function, strengthens internal organs and promotes core strength.
- Influences hormone secretion.
- Stimulates the endocrine system.
- Revitalises cells in the body.
- Prevents ageing.
- Activates the three chakras associated with the three bandhas – Vishuddhi, Manipura and Muladhara Chakras.

LIMITATIONS

- Avoid this, if you suffer from any heart disorder, high or low blood pressure, hernia, stroke, intestinal or stomach ulcer, and from a visceral ailment.
- Women should avoid this during pregnancy and menstruation.

By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science), at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

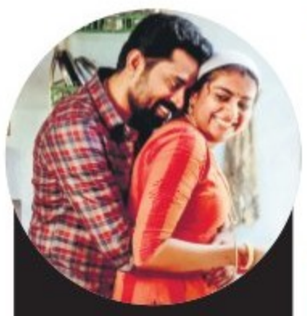
REGIONAL

MARAKKAR: LION OF THE ARABIAN SEA (Malayalam)
Kunjali Marakkar IV becomes a legendary navel chief while waging an epic war against the Portuguese on behalf of the Kingdom of Cochin.
Cast: Mohanlal, Keerthy Suresh, Kalyani Priyadarshan
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

MISS INDIA (Tamil)
After moving to the USA, an aspiring Indian entrepreneur is forced to deal with sexism, criticism and rivalry as she attempts to start her tea business.
Cast: Keerthy Suresh, Pujita Ponnada, Jagapathi Babu, Nadhiya, Naveen Chandra
- Watch on: Netflix

AAMI (Malayalam)
Kamala, a devout admirer of Lord Krishna, gets married to a man who is 20 years older than her. She later goes on to become a famous writer but struggles to deal with relationships and her identity.
Cast: Manju Warrier, Tovino Thomas, Anoop Menon, Murali Gopy, KPAC Lalitha
- Watch on: ZEE5

ANDAZ APNA APNA (Hindi)
Amar and Prem, who belong to middle-class families, compete to win over Raveena, a millionaire's daughter. Along the way, they run into a local gangster, Teja, who turns their lives upside down.
Cast: Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Raveena Tandon, Karishma Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Shakti Kapoor
- Watch on: Netflix



THE GREAT INDIAN KITCHEN (Malayalam)
After her marriage, a woman tries to fit into the conventional mould that society has prescribed for married women. But somewhere along the way, she starts feeling that this is not the life she wants.
Cast: Nimisha Sajayan, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Siddhartha Siva, T Suresh Babu
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

LOST AND FOUND (Marathi)
Four people cross each other's paths while trying to discover romance and deal with loneliness. However, they soon decide to conduct an anti-loneliness programme to cheer others with similar issues.
Cast: Ritika Shrotri, Spruha Joshi, Siddharth Chandekar, Mohan Agashe
- Watch on: SonyLIV

GATHAM (Telugu)
A couple sets out on a road trip but gets stranded in the middle of nowhere when their car breaks down. Soon, they take help from a stranger, unaware that he is a psychopath.
Cast: Poojitha Kuruparthi, Rakesh Galebhe, Sof Puchley, Toktam Aboozary
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

FOREIGN

T-34 (Russian, German)
A group of brave soldiers, who are held captive in a German concentration camp, devises a plan to evade in their heavily damaged T-34 tank during World War II.
Cast: Alexander Petrov, Viktor Dobronravov, Irina Starshenbaum, Anton Bogdanov, Yuri Borisov, Semyon Treskunov, and Artyom Bystrov
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

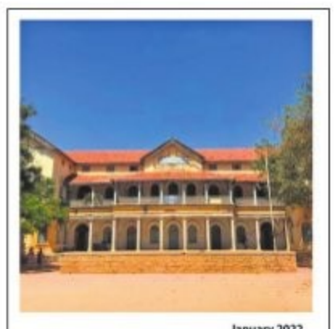
LOVE 101 (Turkish)
Trying to keep their beloved teacher from leaving town, a group of teenage outcasts band together to help her find love, and find the courage to be themselves.
Cast: Mert Yazıcıoğlu, Kubilay Aka, Alina Boz, Selahattin Paşalı, İpek Filiz Yazıcı, Pınar Deniz, Kaan Urgancıoğlu, Ece Yüksel
- Watch on: Netflix

THE FAULT IN OUR STARS (English)
Two cancer-afflicted teenagers Hazel and Augustus meet at a cancer support group. The two of them embark on a journey to visit a reclusive author in Amsterdam.
Cast: Shailene Woodley, Ansel Elgort, Nat Wolff, Laura Dern
- Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

RADIANCE (Japanese)
A photographer, who loses sight, and a career-focused woman share a chance meeting and bond over photographs.
Cast: Ayame Misaki, Masatoshi Nagase, Tatsuya Fuji, Chihiro Otsuka
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

SUBSCRIPTION

Disney+ Hotstar: ₹ 499 per year
SonyLIV: ₹ 299 per month
Prime Video: ₹ 129 per month
Netflix: ₹ 149 per month



January 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

I thought if a small thing like revisiting my old school is making me so nostalgic, making a calendar with old schools will bring back many memories for many old Bengalureans

Babu Ajaz, businessman

St Teresa Girls' School, Anandapuram

Babu Ajaz, who collects bygone photos of Bengaluru, both digital and physical copies, has come up with a calendar with the theme of heritage schools

GOING THE OLD SCHOOL WAY

MONIKA MONALISA

THERE is always a sense of time travel and nostalgia when we see a photograph of Bangalore that once was. City-based **Babu Ajaz**'s calendars evoke a sense of nostalgia. Businessman Ajaz, who collects old pictures of Bengaluru in both digital and physical formats, has come up with a digital calendar with the theme of heritage schools.

Being a large city with a rich heritage, Bengaluru has several spots to pick from. But it's not always easy for him to choose a theme. "Last year, I visited my daughter's school — where I studied too — to pay the fee. Since the place was quiet with the school having been shut for so long, I found that the flora and fauna itself had changed. Flowers had blossomed on a tree that I remember never bearing any," says Ajaz, an alumnus of St. Thomas High School, Whitefield. The site was a pleasant surprise for him because he had never seen this happen.

"I thought if a small thing is making me so nostalgic, making a calendar with old schools will bring back so many memories for many old Bengalureans," he adds.

After collecting pictures from various people from old Bengaluru groups on social media, he finally went ahead with the plan. Although he had many more than just 12 photographs, the deciding factor of the photos that would make it to the calendar was whether the old buildings were intact. "That's the reason I didn't list my school," he adds.

The idea turned out to be a hit when he posted it on various social media groups. "A teacher commented on the post that he had taught in eight out of the 12 schools I had listed," says an excited Ajaz.

Although many have reached out to him asking for a hard copy, due to low photo quality, he hasn't been able to get it printed. "Moreover, if I make a hard copy, then there are additional costs associated with it. I don't want to make it a business," says Ajaz, who shares the digital copy with anyone interested in wanting one.

National High School, Basavanagudi

SCHOOLS OF BENGALURU

January: Fort High School, Chamrajpet

February: East West School, Basavanagudi

March: Attibele Govt School, Anekal

April: National High School, Basavanagudi

May: Bishop Cotton Boys' School, Residency Road

June: St Teresa Girls' School, Anandapuram

July: Sacred Heart Girls' School, Museum Road

August: Mitralaya Girls' High School, Mission Road

September: Tunbridge School, Tasker Town

October: Rao Bahadur Municipal School, Ashok Nagar

November: Model School, Chamrajpet

December: Middle School, Basavanagudi

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE NUMBER 22

The atomic number of Titanium is 22

April 22 1970 : The first Earth Day is celebrated

Aug 22 1987: Madras was founded

Feb 22, 1732: George Washington, the first US President was born

Nov 22, 1963: American President John F Kennedy was assassinated

NUMBER GAME

Meet D Kumaresh, a government official, who loves blending arithmetic and creativity to create brain-teasing New Year calendars and greeting cards

SANATH PRASAD

IF your New Year resolution was to get the better of the pandemic or to keep fit, here is **D Kumaresh**, whose resolution every year is to distribute New Year calendars and greeting cards. Mind you, this is not like any other regular calendar or greeting card.

It is a game of arithmetic with some brain-teasers and some titbits that appear informative and surprising. However, this year Kumaresh, who works in the Income Tax Department in Bengaluru, has dedicated his eight-page creative to music maestro Ilaiyaraaja and the Covid warriors. To celebrate the year 2022, the New Year greetings also consist of the 22 popular islands of Andaman and 22 interesting facts about the number 22. For someone who has been working on different sets and designs of greeting cards and calendars since 1993, working on this piece took just 30 minutes.

"It was very monotonous and boring to see the same set of greeting cards and calendars every year. I love mathematics and I decided to give the New Year greeting cards a twist with the play of numbers. I have worked on different themes every year, including a 2014 calendar dedicated to Sachin Tendulkar after his retirement in 2013," says Kumaresh, adding, "I do this as a hobby. I do not want to commercialise my creatives. So far, I have printed 1,000 copies of the 2022 greetings and calendars which I am distributing to close one."

Kumaresh starts work on this at the end of the year. As a tribute to Ilaiyaraaja this year, he has dedicated the calendar to the music maestro. Titled *Maestro For All Moments*, the calendar consists of dates that denote 31 different achievements and facts about Ilaiyaraaja.

"I have grown up listening to Raja sir's songs. I am a big fan of his *keeravani raaga* composition. I hope to visit him soon in Chennai and give him this piece," says the 57-year-old, who has created 100 calendars even going upto the year 2100. "The trick is to get the first and the last day of every month correct. The rest will automatically fall in place," he adds.

'The small intestine is about 22-feet long'; 'Dec 22, 1887- Birth of Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan'; 'Sikkim became the 22nd state in 1975'- here are 22 interesting facts about the number '22' that are printed on his New Year greeting cards. Not just that, inspired by his visit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Kumaresh has also listed the 22 popular islands of Andaman.

"The greeting card is a dedication to the Covid-19 warriors and also a tribute to Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra and the late Gen Bipin Rawat," says Kumaresh, adding, "I start collecting moments that make news in November. My purpose is to spread awareness on many social and scientific information that can educate the society at large."

I don't want to commercialise my creatives. So far, I have printed 1,000 copies of the 2022 greetings and calendars which I am distributing to close one

D Kumaresh, Income Tax Department employee

Cricket 22: Did you catch it?

@quofles

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

Cricket 22 released in the beginning of December across consoles — the PSes, the PC, the Xboxes, and soon — in the Nintendo Switch. This is Big Ant's latest Cricket-based game, featuring the Ashes, multiple championships, and representing Men's and Women's games. I am not the best person to review this game. In fact, I am ill-equipped to review virtually any videogame based off a mainstream sport for the following reasons. First, I don't follow sports enough to have opinions. Second, FIFA has always been my most disliked game. However, I was quite enthused to try Cricket 22. It reminded me of the last cricket game I played — Cricket 2004 by EA sports. Perhaps, it reminded me a little too much of it. It was as if no time had passed.

Cricket 22 is intended for a specific audience. This audience consists of fans of the sports, who like it and understand it enough to play a videogame of it. This is because of how subtly the game gatekeeps any potential appreciators of the sport. I would not have minded an elaborate, textual tutorial of the game. I wanted more information on fielding positions, and why certain bowling actions would suit certain batspeople. I specifically wanted the difference between offside and legside repeated constantly in my ear, so that I would never forget it. I felt like I started the career mode with an insufficient understanding of how the game was played. It was like I lucked my way through kindergarten (a tutorial that truly stirred my stumps) and was suddenly faced with competing against 5th graders.

The best compliment I can give Cricket 22, is that I liked it better than any FIFA game I have played so far. I agree, FIFA may be amazing with its accuracy in simulating the real game, and undoubtedly has better graphics. But cricket's gameplay is a little less chaotic on screen, especially while batting. I also give it additional points for featuring Indian regional teams (although, I believe FIFA 22 is bringing in ISL).

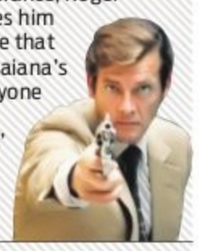
Although I haven't played the online version of Cricket 19, Cricket 22's online event seems to have been received better. I rate the game a bowling strike rate of 10, because I simply couldn't get a boundary in.

WATCH LIST

Live and Let Die (English)

Streaming: Amazon Prime Video

Are you a fan of 007? Then, check out the latest James Bond collection here. With charm, wit and deadly assurance, Roger Moore enters an high-octane adventure that sees him battling an underworld drug czar in an adventure that draws him from the streets of New York to Louisaiana's Bayou country. In a land where anyone and everyone is hostile, Bond has to cross many odds — from escaping croc attacks to fighting the 'iron hands' — the mission gets only tougher.



Cast: Roger Moore, Yaphet Kotto, Jane Seymour

Emily in Paris, Season 2 (English)

Streaming: Netflix

The Season 2 of *Emily in Paris* picks up directly from the events of Season 1 with Emily still torn over her one-night fling with Gabriel after he decides to stay in Paris. While she seems to be on top of her game at Savoir, her personal life sees an act of balancing. She is seen dabbling with her feelings for Gabriel and her loyalty to Camille. As she meets Alfie, in her French class, there is some amount of friction in their relationship. Also watch for some of the jokes poked at Emily's fashion styles.

Cast: Lily Collins, Ashley Park, Lucas Bravo

Stay Close, Season 1 (English)

Streaming: Netflix

Are you looking for a new thriller movie to watch? *Stay Close* is sure to keep you on the edge of the seat. The lives of a photojournalist, a soccer mom and a homicide detective are disturbed by a terrible event from the past. Four people, dark secrets, and a past that threatens their lives here is a gripping thriller that questions how much you really know someone.

Cast: Cush Jumbo, James Nesbitt, Richard Armitage

PIXIE SECRETS

SECRETS TO LOOK GOOD

SAUMYA R CHAWLA

@pixie.secrets

Beauty behaviour with a side of dessert

I always imagined I'd be well equipped for my mid-20s: meeting new people, travelling, the works. While I'm slowly coming to terms with the fact that not knowing what's going on is a part of life, the pandemic has only made this so much more real. Like everyone else, I tried to find joy in Zoom quizzes and banana bread — but to little avail.

The last two years haven't exactly set the tone for celebrating. With so much grief and violence, even birthdays have felt poorly timed.

When it comes to the holiday season, it feels almost easy to call the whole thing off and add it to the list of things that were cancelled due to the pandemic. Instead, I found comfort in the known, and immersed myself in one of the many joys in life: beauty.

Over time, I've come to see beauty as a reason to celebrate — ourselves, our culture, the connections we form with other people. There's something so delightfully magical about the glint of a new eyeshadow, creamy swipe of a fresh tube of lip gloss, the way you feel when you finally mastered the no makeup-makeup look (has the embargo on that state secret lifted yet?).

Here's my poorly-kept secret while getting ready:

The best makeup looks start with healthy skin — there's only so much a vat of concealer can do.

This brings us to my extremely important discovery of 2021: Sulwhasoo's First Care Activating Serum EX. Formulated with five Asian herbs, this K-beauty product has taken the beauty world by quite a storm, and I had to find out why.

Sulwhasoo's serum throws a wrench into the typical regime by being in the consistency of a serum yet recommended to use right after cleansing the skin.

After about a week of experimentation, I settled on the time-tested strategy of: Do What I Want, and I must say: it's been fantastic! Some nights see me using this right after cleansing, and on some nights I mix this in with other serums.

Surprisingly enough, the serum put some rosey colour in my cheeks, perhaps due to some of the extracts in the product stimulating increased circulation in the skin. After a few more days of using it, I found myself happily going blush free without looking like someone out of the exorcist! Really, this is a huge deal in my world.

You might also notice that alcohol is high up on this list, and while I'm no alcohol avoider (in life or skincare) this can be a sensitising ingredient for some people.

I do suggest keeping an open mind, as there are several cosmetically valid (and safe) reasons for alcohol to be a part of your product. It's a solvent, and is often added to herb-heavy skincare products to stabilise and allow for better absorption.

Here's to hopes that 2022 brings us good skin, better health and a lot of love.

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PRAJWAL DEVARAJ & PANNAGA BHARANA TO TEAM UP FOR TWO PROJECTS

The actor and director are currently in discussion to start their first project this year

A SHARADHAA

PRAJWAL Devaraj is currently busy with a handful of projects, including Khadhar Kumar's *Veeram* and Lohith H's *Mafia*. Meanwhile, speculations are rife that the actor will be teaming up with his good friend and director Pannaga Bharana for two projects. "Discussions for the two projects have been going on for a year now, but Covid-19 delayed the plans. The two have resumed the talks and will announce their first project soon," says our source. However, it is still unknown when exactly the Prajwal-Pannaga project is likely to take off.

Prajwal, who has Ram Narayan's *Abbara* ready for release, is currently shooting for *Mafia*. He has also given a green signal to editor-turned-director Kiran's thriller and writer-turned-director Jakka Hariprasad's sci-fi film.

Meanwhile, it is said that Pannaga Bharana, who last directed *French Biriyani*, will next helm *Govindaya Namaha* heroine Parul Yadav. However, an official confirmation is awaited from the makers.

Ramesh Aravind & Nasser

NASSER AND RAMESH ARAVIND SHARE SCREEN SPACE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN *SHIVAJI SURATHKAL 2*

The film, directed by Akash Srivatsa, will have the senior actor playing the role of Vijendra Surathkal, father of Shivaji Surathkal

CE FEATURES

Well-known south Indian actor Nasser is on board *Shivaji Surathkal 2*. The senior actor will be seen playing the role of Vijendra Surathkal - the father of Shivaji Surathkal in this mystery thriller. Director Akash Srivatsa, who has completed a 10-day schedule, has shot a few portions with Nasser.

"Surathkal with Surathkal in *Shivaji Surathkal 2*, which explores the relationship between the father and the son," the director tells us as he shares a still from the film featuring both the actors.

Akash Srivatsa

Interestingly, this is the first time Ramesh Aravind will be sharing screen space with Nasser. "Nasser and Ramesh Aravind have known each other for a long time. Both were launched by legendary director K Balachander. Glad, we managed to bring the two fine actors together," he says.

Shivaji Surathkal's sequel is written and directed by Akash Srivatsa and produced by Rekha KN and Anup Gowda. It features Radhika Narayan, Raghu Ramanakoppa, Vidya Murthy, Vinayak Joshi, and Suman Bhat in prominent roles. The film's camerawork is handled by Guruprasad MG, and Nakul Abhayankar has scored the music for the film.

The shooting is in progress, and director Akash plans to wrap up major portions by the end of January 2022.

A PASSABLE OUT-AND-OUT COMMERCIAL FILM

ARJUN GOWDA

Cast: Prajwal Devaraj, Priyanka Thimmesh, and Sparsha Rekha

Director: Lucky Shankar

RATING 2.5/5

A SHARADHAA

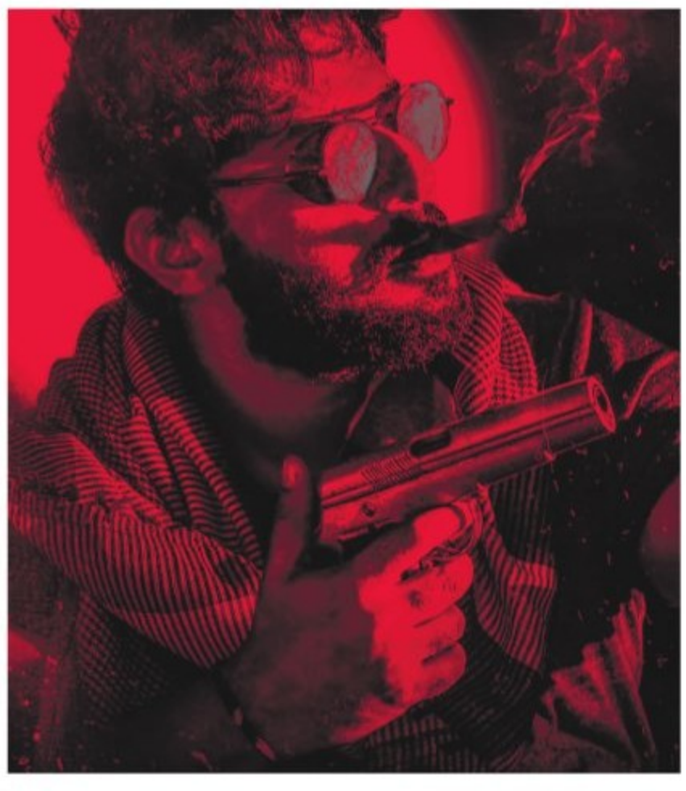
DON'T be mistaken, *Arjun Gowda* is not *Arjun Reddy*. Except for the anger trait of the protagonist and the drunken bouts in the first half. Other than that, the movie is everything else that has elements of love story, heartbreak, motherly love, media trial, love for Kannada language, kickboxing, underworld, and mafia. While it may not be persuasive, director Lucky Shankar manages to weave all elements into a mediocre narrative using the loom of commercial elements.

The story revolves around *Arjun Gowda* (Prajwal Devaraj), son of a television channel head, Janaki Gowda (Sparsha Rekha). An impulsive and hot-headed youth, often seen in small arguments with his mother, who he fondly calls Janaki. Unfortunately, Arjun's name gets attached to an attempt to kill his mother. The movie then goes into flashback when a loving relationship between Arjun and his mother turns sour when she finds out that her son is in love with a gangster's daughter, Jaanu (Priyanka Thimmesh). Circumstances lead to a breakup between the love birds and Arjun decides to isolate himself from his family, in the company of alcohol. That makes up the first half.

A reformed Arjun takes charge of the channel and goes about destroying his enemies which forms the crux of the second half. Will he get back to Jaanu makes up for a pucca masala entertainer with no attempt of getting realistic.

The last film produced by Ramu, Arjun Gowda has the signature style of all the films backed by the production house. Lucky felt best to follow the formula, bringing elements of chasing, fights, comedy, songs, and what is regularly seen in the previous films made under the banner. Although he begins *Arjun Gowda* with a note about the killings of Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, MM Kalburgi, and Gauri Lankesh, the director has not stressed the issue. Instead, he hints at them in just one scene.

Prajwal Devaraj gives an all-around performance. Priyanka Thimmesh has tried to justify her space and Sparsha Rekha makes her presence felt. Sadhu Kokila's comic episodes have no connection with the film's story. If you are a fan of producer Ramu's films, *Arjun Gowda* can be your one-time outing.



SS RAJAMOULI'S *RRR* RELEASE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY IN WAKE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CE FEATURES

SS Rajamouli's magnum opus RRR, which was set to release on January 7, has been postponed indefinitely in the wake of the Omicron variant. Due to the surge in the number of COVID-19 cases in the country, many states have imposed restrictions or have shut down theatres to curb the spread of the virus.

The film's producers DVV Entertainment, as well as RRR's official Twitter handle, announced the news today. "Inspite of our relentless efforts, some situations are beyond our control. As many Indian states are closing theatres, we are left with no choice but to ask you to hold on to your excitement. We promised to bring back The Glory of Indian Cinema, and at the right time, we will," read the post.

This isn't the first time that the film has been postponed. Originally slated to release on the 30th of July 2020, the film was postponed multiple times due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent shutting down of the theatres.

RRR stars Ram Charan, Jr NTR, and Alia Bhatt in lead roles, and Ajay Devgn in an extended cameo. The film is a period drama set in pre-independent India inspired by fictional events. The film features characters inspired by real-life freedom fighters Alluri Sitarama Raju (Ram Charan) and Komaram Bheem (Jr NTR). RRR produced by DVV Entertainments has music composed by MM Keeravani. The cinematography for the film is by KK Senthil Kumar. A new release date is yet to be announced.

Anushka to return to screen with three projects?

ANUSHKA Sharma is returning to the screen with three projects, reports claim. One of them will be a massively mounted OTT film. The other two will be theatrical projects. Bollywood Hungama quoted a source saying these films will be announced early this year. Anushka's last film was *Zero* (2018) with Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina Kaif. She also appeared in the promo song 'Kudi Nu Nachne De' for *Angrezi Medium* (2020).

Kirti Kulhari to don khaki in her next

CE FEATURES

Kirti Kulhari took to social media to announce her latest feature film, Nayeka. The actor is set to play a cop in the film. Kirti posted a picture of the script, written by Ajaykiran Nair, and shared images of her donning the khaki.

The 36-year-old actor wrote there will be a "big announcement" soon.

"#Nayeka New year new beginnings... Began shooting for a new feature film today. A kickass script, a kickass role. PS: A big announcement coming soon," she wrote. Meanwhile, Kirti is currently gearing up for the release of her series, Human, which is set to premiere on Disney+ Hotstar on January 14. The medical thriller, which also stars Shefali Shah, is directed by Vipul Amrutlal Shah and Mozez Singh.

Kirti Kulhari